

Hafa Adai!

Man who killed pedestrian in hit-and-run released on parole. **PAGE 2**
Orsini is new BOE chair; Tenorio, Borja are sworn in. **PAGE 3**

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AT INAUGURATION OF 22ND CNMI LEGISLATURE

Deadlock at the House

The House of Representatives of the 22nd Commonwealth Legislature holds its organizational session at the CNMI Legislature on Capital Hill yesterday morning.
NEIL FAMA



FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» **Hofschneider is Senate president**

among the 20 representatives evenly split between Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Tinian) and Rep. Edmund Vilagomez (Ind-Saipan). This was in contrast to the organizational session at the Senate where, as expected, senators elected Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) as president. See HOUSE on Page 4

Several hours after the House of Representatives called its inaugural session to order yesterday morning, the chamber's lawmakers were still deadlocked on who would be the House speaker of the 22nd CNMI Legislature, with the vote

COP golf course reopens this week

By BEA CABRERA
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CORRESPONDENT

E-Land Group of Companies' Coral Ocean Resort Golf Course in San Antonio, formerly known as the Coral Ocean Golf Point, will start

welcoming golf enthusiasts this week starting Friday, Jan. 15.

To kick off the much awaited reopening, a ceremony will be held on Thursday, Jan. 14, which will be attended by Gov.

See COP on Page 4

Torres says deficit at \$133.17M

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has notified the Legislature that the total spending and obligations for fiscal year 2020

exceeded the appropriated resources by \$133,172,087.

In his FY 2020's Annual Financial Report dated Nov. 5, 2021, Torres noted that of the \$133.17 million deficit, See TORRES on Page 4

CHCC looks at possible allergic reaction to COVID-19 vaccine

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is investigating a couple of people who have reported allergic reactions that could be related to the COVID-19 vaccine. This comes as three more people were con-

» **Three more test positive in NMI**

firmed positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI yesterday.

CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña confirmed in a radio news briefing last Friday that CHCC is now looking into the case and have informed the affected individuals that they have to also report their symptoms to the See CHCC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 11, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,404	0	7,404
Recovered	7,146	0	7,146
Active	134	0	134
Deaths	124	0	124
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	104,469		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	125	3	128
Traced via Travel Screening	99	3	102
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	22,633*		
Days since last community transmission	146		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

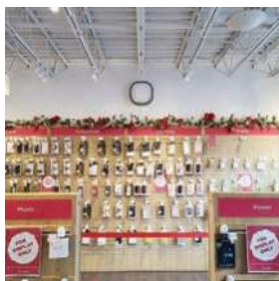
INSIDE



LOCAL

The Palauan Community Association of the CNMI hopes to ease the trek to Naftan Point.

PAGE 7



BUSINESS

Docomo Pacific installs Aura Air smart air filters in its retail locations and call center.

PAGE 11



LIFE & STYLE

Late-night TV show hosts express anger and frustration at the violence at the U.S. Capitol.

PAGE 15



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Local

Man who killed pedestrian in hit-and-run released on parole

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

A man who turned himself in for running over a man and leaving him on the street was granted parole after serving about half of his sentence.

The CNMI Board of Parole approved the application of Es-ekiel "Easy" Smith, 33, for early release after serving over one year of his five-year sentence despite opposition by the Office of the Attorney General.

According to OAG Chief Prosecutor John Bradley, he opposed Smith's application because causing the death of an individual and abandoning them without medical care is a serious crime. In addition, Bradley said, Smith thinks his sentence is "too long," which shows little appreciation for the seriousness of his crime.

"Pieces of human flesh were scattered around the scene as far as 150 feet from impact. Smith thinks his sentence of

five years is 'too long.' That perhaps shows little appreciation for the seriousness of the crime and his failure to stop and report the accident," he said.

Back in August 2018, Smith was convicted of accident/reckless driving resulting in the death of a pedestrian that he abandoned. In January 2019, Smith was sentenced to five years and six months and he has served nearly half of that sentence.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Smith said during his change of plea hearing that he was driving home close to midnight in Puerto Rico at a speed of around 40mph and it was dark and raining when he hit the pedestrian. Smith told the court that after hitting the victim, he continued to drive away because he panicked and was scared. He later decided to turn himself in because he felt extremely guilty.

On Aug. 19, 2018, at ap-

proximately 3:37am, DPS received a call about an auto-pedestrian incident adjacent to the Commonwealth Utili-

ties Corp. power plant. Upon arriving at the scene, officers met with the caller who had reported the incident.

CPA employees remain furloughed

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority said its employees who are on reduced work hours will continue to have shortened hours as a result of the steep revenue decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, CPA employees will remain furloughed—the term CPA uses to refer to reduced hours—which mean all employees are working on a reduced hour work schedule indefinitely because of the drastic decline following the halt of the tourism industry.

"While some agencies are back to a full 80 hours, our employees have been on 64 hours in anticipation of the drastic decline in revenue as a result of the halt of the tourism industry," she said.

All employees, except for critical employees, remain furloughed in order to avoid a reduction-in-force, King-Hinds said.

"The austerity measures adopted by the board remains in effect for all employees so we are still operating on reduced hours but for those critical

employees that are required to support essential operational functions on an as-needed basis," she said.

Aside from austerity measures, King-Hinds said federal funding has aided in CPA averting a reduction-in-force, or the outright termination of employees.

"We have been able to avoid a reduction-in-force because of our quick action to implement austerity measures and the funds received under the CARES Act," she said.

CPA received about \$22.8 million from the CARES Act. CPA expects to receive another allocation from the recently passed second COVID-19 relief package that was signed by President Donald Trump earlier this month.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, all CPA employees were reduced to a 64-hour work schedule effective March 29, 2020.

Back on Feb. 14, 2020, the board approved a 72-hour work schedule for all employees, reducing by eight hours the work-hours of employees per pay period.

CPA estimated a total revenue loss at \$6,478,735 in 2020 due to flights suspensions.

Woman in 'ice' case wants contact with hubby who also has drug case

A woman involved in a drug case has asked the court to modify her bail conditions to allow her to have contact with her husband who is involved in another pending drug case.

Jashlie Nicole Camacho Reyes, 28, has requested the Superior Court to allow her to have contact with her husband and the father of five of her six children.

Reyes' attorney, Joe W. McDoulett, told the court that his client has been restricted from contact with her husband, which constitutes to deprivation of her liberty. McDoulett argues that his client is entitled to a preliminary hearing examination.

McDoulett said Reyes should not be subjected to the substantial deprivation of her liberties while the government prepares for trial.

"The purpose of a preliminary hearing is to determine whether there is probable cause to believe that a crime has been committed and that the defendant has committed it," he said.

McDoulett said the government should meet its burden to show it can prove probable

cause as to all elements of the alleged offenses.

"To date, the government has provided evidence only that an amount of a controlled substance was sent to the CNMI. There has been no evidence tying the defendant to the original act of causing the substance to enter the CNMI. Nor has there been any evidence to show the defendant took control of or expected the package to be delivered to her," he said.

Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan directed the parties in the case to file additional briefs regarding Reyes' request to modify her release conditions.

Reyes allegedly imported methamphetamine or "ice" from California to Saipan through the U.S. Postal Service.

She was charged with importation of contraband and trafficking of a controlled substance.

Reyes, represented by attorney, is opposing the government's motion to vacate the preliminary hearing. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**



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From left, 17th State Board of Education student representative Rainalyn Reyes, BOE member Greg Borja, BOE vice chair Herman Atalig, BOE member Antonio L. Borja; BOE chair Andrew L. Orsini; private school representative Rob Snyder; Associate Justice Perry B. Inos; BOE secretary/treasurer Maisie B. Tenorio; and BOE teacher representative Phyllis Ain.

JUSTINE NAUTA

Orsini is new BOE chair; Tenorio and Borja are sworn in

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The 17th CNMI State Board of Education held its inaugural meeting yesterday at the Marianas High School cafeteria in Susupe, with new members Maisie B. Tenorio and Greg Borja and 16th BOE member Herman Atalig being sworn in and Andrew L. Orsini being elected as board chairman.

Associate Justice Perry B. Inos swore in the BOE's newest members, Maisie B. Tenorio and Greg Borja, as well as Herman Atalig, who is a hold-over from the 16th BOE.

In a later interview, Orsini said the BOE has a lot of unfinished business and he would like to move forward to complete the things that have yet to be addressed.

Chief among that is to bring "normalcy" back to schools as they progress to hybrid learning, Orsini said. That means students will be going to school physically for two days and then will have online classes for the remainder of the days. Additionally, Orsini wants to restore 80 hours, instead of 64 hours, for PSS teachers and staff.

He also envisions a more environment-focused PSS, considering its large ecological footprint. PSS has over 10,000 students and 1,200 teachers and staff.

Orsini also said he looks forward to working with Tenorio and Borja and listening to the new ideas they will bring to the board. "The people have spoken to bring them in. Their intention or passion is there for the people, for our children, and I look forward to working with them and welcome their new ideas," said Orsini.

Besides Orsini, the other BOE officers are Atalig, who was elected vice chairman, and Tenorio, who was elected secretary and treasurer.

It was Atalig who nominated Orsini, who was then unanimously elected chairperson.

Atalig was sworn in again as a BOE member after running unopposed in last November's elections. Atalig was also unanimously chosen as BOE's vice chairman, making this his second term. This

time around, he said his is going to be two things: "One is the quality of education that I'm going to continue to push and two is equity for all schools. Also, I want to push the meaning of Student First for all three [islands]. Student First in the community, Student First on the islands, and Students First in schools," said Atalig. He is confident that the 17th BOE will be able to achieve that.

The fifth BOE member is Tinian representative Antonio L. Borja. That makes them the voting members of the board.

The three non-voting members are private schools representative Ron Snyder, student representative Rainalyn Reyes, and teacher representative Phyllis Ain.

In a separate interview, Tenorio said she feels blessed to have this opportunity to serve the students, adding that she has worked with them for so long and listened to all of their dreams and their hopes and their struggles.

"It's such an incredible honor to be able to serve my community and to serve students in this capacity. I have always loved working with PSS. It is something that I am very committed to working with through the coalition," she said. Tenorio is executive director of the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence.

Borja said his vision for the future of PSS is to make sure that students are succeeding and that schools and the administration and teachers are getting the resources they need in order to make that vision possible. "I'm really looking forward to working with my fellow members and trying to move forward with the system. I know we have a lot of challenges right now, and we just have to overcome those and make sure the school system gets what they need, to get students what they need," he said, and that he's ready to work and move forward.

MHS principal Jonathan Aguon presided over yesterday's ceremonies. Outgoing BOE member Marylou Ada was not present for the ceremony.



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HOUSE

From Page 1

Twenty-nine mask-wearing lawmakers in both chambers took their oath of office at the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill as members of the 22nd CNMI Legislature during an inauguration that, for the first time in CNMI history, was closed to the public due to COVID-19 health protocols.

As of press time last night, the House was still at an impasse, with Demapan and Villagomez each receiving 10 votes during three elections. Speaker pro tempore Rep. Jonathan Blas T. Attao (R-Saipan) presided over the House's organizational session.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the House chamber yesterday at 5:35pm, the representatives were still in closed-door talks.

During the third voting that happened at 4:49pm, Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan) announced that that was the last time he would vote for Demapan.

Without a speaker, the House cannot organize because there is no leadership and they cannot appoint the committee chairs.

After the first voting, the House had a recess for the members to spend time with their families and take photos so people don't have to wait while the representatives from both sides then had a meeting.

In an interview after the first round of voting for speakership, Demapan



Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) is elected president during yesterday's organizational session at the Senate.

NEIL FAMA

said they will continue to talk to members on both sides of the aisle and see what's the best path forward so that they can organize the House.

To his recollection, Demapan said it's the first time in recent history that an impasse happened due to a tie in the votes for the speakership. "I'm very, very grateful for the support from my colleagues, for their trust and confidence in me and my abilities to lead the House. Unfortunately we're at a tie right now," said Demapan.

He said they will try their best to find a solution to break the impasse and come together so that they can formulate their action plan and set a direction for the people of the CNMI.

"So I am hopeful that we can do that [electing a speaker] today. I think we owe it to our people to do it," said Demapan, who was a member of the 19th and 20th House.

Villagomez, in an interview after the first voting, hoped the chamber would figure something out when

they reconvene. "The closest we've ever gotten to something like this was in the 19th Legislature. We didn't have a feeling or didn't know until like, maybe late night before inauguration, as who the majority was going to be," Villagomez said.

He said even with this impasse, however, they had an agreement to have the speaker pro tempore and floor leader pro tempore to make sure they have this organizational session and to have this inauguration.

"Because without those pro tem officers I don't even think we'd be able to get sworn in," Villagomez said.

At the Senate, Sen. Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan) was elected vice president, Sen. Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) as floor leader, and Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota) as Legislative secretary.

Hocog presided over the organizational session as Senate pro tempore.

Hofschneider later took over the session and during the election of officers after he was elected Senate president.

CHCC

From Page 1

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and not just CHCC.

As of 8pm yesterday, Muña stated that they are reviewing the individuals' health history and their investigation is ongoing.

After a person gets vaccinated, they are then registered on V-Safe, which is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and Web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins. According to the CDC, through V-Safe, you can instantly tell CDC if you have any side effects after getting the COVID-19 vaccine. Depending on your answers, someone from CDC may call to check on you and get more information. V-safe will remind you to get your second COVID-19 vaccine dose if you need one.

"We are going to work with them on that, and actually evaluate those who are going to be seeing a provider today (Jan. 8) to determine whether that it is related to the vaccine they received," said Muña.

According to Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services spokeswoman Janela Carrera, three people in Guam are being monitored after getting the shot last Dec. 18, 2020.

According to Carrera, one man had to be closely observed for about 45 minutes after he reported chest pains, but he claimed he was fine. He was also offered medical transport but refused it. One woman was observed closely for about 30 minutes. She had a history of hypertension and was fine afterward. Another woman had an allergic reaction and epinephrine, an adrenaline shot, was given, and she was

then taken to the hospital.

In the CNMI, a total of 3,389 shots for the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine have been given as of Jan. 11, and a total of 329 doses for the second dose have already been given.

Meantime, CHCC announced yesterday that three more individuals tested positive for COVID-19 in the CNMI, which brings the cumulative total to 128.

The three were identified by travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through testing upon arrival. They have been safely transferred to the quarantine site at Kanoa Resort in Susupe and were moved to the designated isolation area for close monitoring.

CHCC has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed cases, including passengers on the same flight.

just yet.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, the repair of the hotel started in May 2019. "...Because of the damage to some areas of the resort were so severe, they had to demolish many of the structures and build them from the ground up. ...However, areas like the lobby will not be demolished and will be brought back to its state prior to Yutu," said Gloria Cavanagh who is the general manager of Pacific Islands Club Saipan, a sister-hotel of COPGC.

"We are going bring it back to where it was originally. It was newly renovated in 2011 and it was still pretty new and it was gorgeous, especially the lobby area, so we're planning to bring

it back to that. ... We have to look at doing the other 200 rooms. We were at the point where it was already in the planning stages but, after the storm, we had to work on putting everything back in order first," Cavanagh added.

Located on the southern tip of Saipan, the COP Golf Course is known not only for its challenging fairways and putting greens but also for its beautiful views and breeze coming from the nearby sea, which is why it is considered one of the beautiful golf courses in the Pacific region.

COPGC is now open for inquiries and reservations. Green fee is only \$45 during weekdays and \$50 during weekends. For more information, call (670) 234-7000 from 7am to 1pm.

Hofschneider instructed Sens. Sablan and Karl Rosario King-Nabors (R-Tinian) to report to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres that the Senate is duly organized and is ready for business.

In his speech, Hofschneider said he is grateful for the people of Tinian for allowing him to be their voice the last few years and urged his fellow senators to roll up sleeves and get to work.

"There is no time to waste; we have just the next two years to legislate a proper road to recovery," he said.

Hofschneider encouraged the senators to revisit the results of the Fiscal Summit and particularly look at currency export fees that can capture some of the monies that bleed out of the islands each day.

He said he personally view the current military presence as a net positive for Tinian and for the CNMI. "However, we must address the threat of a more destructive military presence," he said.

Hofschneider made it clear that the Tinian leadership is not interested in live-fire training on the islands. "We have expressed time and again that we are open to deals with the DoD (Department of Defense) but outright destruction is non-negotiable," the president said.

Twenty members of the House were sworn in before Chief Justice Alexander C. Castro in the House chamber, while nine members of the Senate took their oaths before Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto C. Naraja.

First-time senators are Edith E.

Deleon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and King-Nabors (R-Tinian).

The other senators are Sens. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota), Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Vinnie F. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Justo Quitugua (R-Saipan), Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), and Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian).

In the House, first-time representatives are Reps. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), Denita Kaipat Yangetmai (D-Saipan), Leila Haveia Fleming Clark Staffler (D-Saipan), Vicente Castro Camacho (D-Saipan), Roy Christopher Aldan Ada (R-Saipan), and Patrick Hofschneider San Nicolas (R-Tinian).

The other House members are Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan), Christina-Marie Elise Sablan (D-Saipan), Sheila Therese Jack Babauta (D-Saipan), Richard Tudela Lizama (D-Saipan), Joseph Lee Pan T. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan), Blas Jonathan Tenorio Attao (R-Saipan), Ivan Alafanson Blanco (R-Saipan), Ralph Naraja Yumul (R-Saipan), Joel Castro Camacho (R-Saipan), Edmund Joseph Sablan Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Joseph Flores (Ind-Saipan), and Donald Manalang Manglona (Ind-Rota).

The ceremonies were invitation-only and were closed to public due to COVID-19 health protocols.

The inaugural event was televised live on Docomo Cable, Channel 23 and streamed live on Facebook in their respective chambers.

TORRES

From Page 1

\$85 million was a direct result of the COVID-19 threat and mitigation efforts used to keep the CNMI as safe as possible from the spread of the virus. Of the \$85 million, an anticipated 75% to 90% of these funds is expected to be reimbursed to the CNMI government by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Torres said another \$10 million of this deficit was a result of medical referral costs during the fiscal year, while another \$9 million was expended to supplement Group Health and Life Insurance coverage for retirees.

The remaining \$29 million, Torres said, was attributed to expenses and obligations incurred prior to the implementation of the across-the-board budget reduction.

He said the destruction and ensuing economic impacts caused by Super Typhoon Yutu persisted well into the beginning of fiscal year 2020.

While the Korean tourism market eventually began to regain noticeable momentum in the first quarter of fiscal year 2020, this progress was later undone by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fiscal year 2020's original budget amounted to \$233,222,527, as outlined in Public Law 21-08.

However, Torres said, because of the necessary and active monitoring of collected revenue, revised budgets were made, first, in the amount of \$184,834,810 on Feb. 6, 2020, followed by a second revised budget in the amount of \$150,463,188 on March 11, 2020.

He said the actual collections in

fiscal year 2020 totaled \$169,942, not including amusement, casino revenues, and other licenses and fees also known as earmarked resources stipulated in Public Law 21-08.

Torres said subsequent debt service payments, the earmarked funds, and critical budget reductions made due to the pandemic's significant effects on the economy, the remaining available general fund resources for appropriation ultimately stood at only \$77,179,916.

"Additional COVID-19 related expenditures increased throughout the fiscal year in order to continue the implementation of mitigation efforts essential to protect the health of our community," the governor said.

With the recent approval of the second pandemic relief and government funding measure, Torres said the CNMI anticipates an increase in federal funding necessary to continue the COVID-19 mitigation efforts and address the shortfall of available resources for the continued administration of government services.

Torres said they join the Finance Department in encouraging future legislation geared toward generating revenue and encouraging business development that can aid in meeting the government's fiscal year 2021 revenue projections.

Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig prepared the report.

The law requires that no later than three months after the end of a fiscal year, the Governor's Office shall submit to the Legislature an itemized comparison of amounts appropriated, obligated, and expended during the previous fiscal year, and revenues identified and collected during the previous fiscal year.

COP

From Page 1

Ralph DLG Torres and other officials, followed by a golf tournament.

The reopening of the world-class golf course comes after over two years of repair and reconstruction from the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Yutu. "I'm delighted to announce that after all the hard work to revive the hotel from the damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu, Coral Ocean Golf Resort Golf Course is ready to open on Jan. 15," said E-Land Sales and Marketing manager Katy Hung.

COPGC will only open the golf course and not its hotel operations

CEC chief Villagomez retires

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita A. Villagomez retired effective last Dec. 30 after working at the CEC for 32 years.

With Villagomez's retirement, CEC administrative officer Kayla Igitol has been serving as acting executive director.

In her letter to CEC chair Jesus I. Sablan, Villagomez said it has been a pleasure to work with the commission but must part from her post to tend to her health. She said she always regarded her services with ut-

most importance and value during her 32-year service with the commission.

"I am thankful and blessed to have worked with the finest staff and most supportive commissioners," Villagomez said.



Villagomez

The November 2018 general elections was very challenging to Villagomez and CEC staff as it was done a month after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the CNMI.

Last November, Villagomez and staff faced an equally difficult job in overseeing an election in the midst of a COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Villagomez began serving as CEC executive director in 2014. In September 2016, the CEC board unanimously voted for her appointment as executive director.

Villagomez first worked at CEC as an administrative assistant in 1988, then she became an administrative officer.

» CEC administrative officer Igitol is acting executive director

Villagomez disclosed during the conduct of the Nov. 3 polls that she was going to retire after the election.

Villagomez earlier said she is confident that even without her, the CEC will be fine as the staff are well trained and are all experienced.

Scheduled water service interruption

There is currently an emergency water service interruption causing low pressure and will continue daily from 8:30am to 2pm until further notice for Commonwealth Utilities Corp. customers in the areas of Chalan Monsignor Martinez from Shell Dandan toward Koblerville near the ABCD Market, As Perdido Road, and Chalan Monsignor Martinez intersection east toward the

GPCC Inc. main office and west toward the Division of Parks and Recreation and the Recycling Center.

The water service interruption is due to low tank level at the Dandan tank. CUC water operations personnel are currently performing leak detection within the affected areas for leaks that may be the cause of the low tank level. To help keep continued water service to the affected

areas, CUC Water Operators will use the Kannat Tabla tank to help provide water service but low water pressure will still occur daily. Updates will follow as soon as they are available.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline (236-4333) or monitor CUC's Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CUC-RAES-21-013

A&E Design Services for the Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement (S19-068)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for the Design Services of the Lower Miha Homestead Sewerline Replacement in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Proposers for this project must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RAES package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the Proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RAES-21-013, A&E Design Services for Lower Miha Sewerline Replacement", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 12, 2021**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater, Acting Chief Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org; Dennis Formalejo, Water/Wastewater Engineer – via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior – via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

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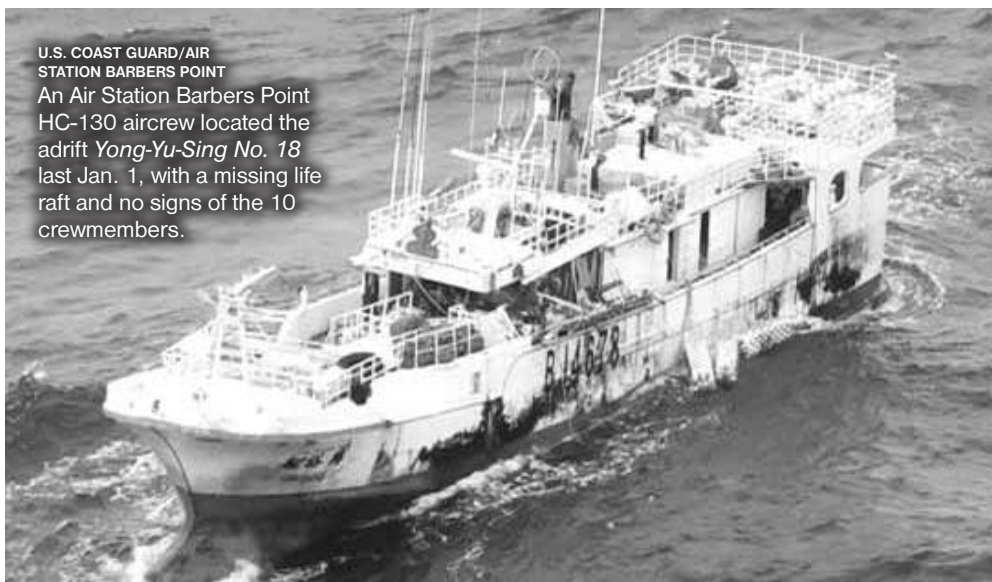
saipantribuneofficial

Search for missing mariners off Midway Island continues

HONOLULU—The search for the 10 missing crewmembers off Midway Island continues, nearly two weeks since the search first started on New Year's Eve.

U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, and good Samaritans, in coordination with Rescue Coordination Center Taipei, continue the search for the 10 crewmembers of the *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18* 550-miles north-east of Midway Island.

Two Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 Hercules and one Navy P-8 Poseidon aircrews are scheduled to search



U.S. COAST GUARD/AIR STATION BARBERS POINT
An Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 aircrew located the adrift *Yong-Yu-Sing No. 18* last Jan. 1, with a missing life raft and no signs of the 10 crewmembers.

the area Monday. Good Samaritans aboard four fishing vessels are also nearing the search area.

"Partnerships are key when it comes to challenging long range search and rescue cases like this," said Cmdr. Scott

Higbee, a Joint Rescue Coordination Center Honolulu search and rescue mission coordinator. "With the help of

Learn the ABCs of federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this month. These next three webinars are great for companies new to federal contracting.

Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live we-

binar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Jan. 14 – DUNS/SAM – To sell your product or service to the Federal government, you need to get a DUNS number and register in SAM.

These registrations pose unique challenges to Guam/CNMI based businesses. Tips and solutions for these challenges will be discussed.

■ Jan. 21 – Federal Contract Opportunities – Beta.sam.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to setup an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ Jan. 28 – Marketing to the Federal Government – The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list".

Register on the Guam PTAC website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

our international partners and the Navy we have been able to sustain daily searches and are able to cover a much larger area than if we were relying on Coast Guard crews alone. This is especially important in the Pacific where the search zone may be thousands of miles from first responders."

The partners have been searching for the crew since Dec. 31, 2020. An Air Station Barbers Point HC-130 aircrew located the adrift *Yong-Yu-*

Sing No. 18 last Jan. 1, with a missing life raft and no signs of the 10 crewmembers.

Involved in the search to date are Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point C-130 Hercules aircrew; a Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak C-130J Hercules aircrew; four Taiwan fishing vessels; Navy P-8 Poseidon aircrews; and the crew of the Automated Mutual-Assistance Vessel Rescue System ship M/V *Oocl Tokyo*. (USCG)

7 firms are awarded \$990M worth of construction contracts in the Pacific

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Pacific awarded Thursday last week a \$990 million multiple award construction contract for work on projects located primarily in Guam and in various sites within the NAVFAC Pacific area of operations. The work to be performed includes, but is not limited to, work on administrative facilities, barracks/dormitories, dining facilities, ranges, educational facilities, training facilities, roads, streets, site utilities/infrastructure, and other base development facilities.

The contract supports the Defense Policy Review Initiative and is funded by the government of Japan as part of the international agreement between the United States and Japan.

The majority of work will be performed in Guam, but may include other areas under the cognizance of NAVFAC Pacific, with an expected completion date of January 2026.

"Over the five-year life of this MACC, significant funding will flow into the Guam business economy," said NAVFAC Pacific Guam Program Management Office director Will Boudra.

Hensel Phelps-Shimizu Joint Venture of Honolulu, Hawaii is the first of seven companies being awarded the initial task order at \$53.9 million for the construction of a base administration building on Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz in Guam. Work for this task order will be performed in Guam and is expected to be completed by May 2023.

In addition,, the following six companies are each being awarded a MACC contract: Aptim Construction JV, LLC of Alexandria, Va.; Black Construction-Tutor Perini JV of Harmon, Guam; Caddell-Nan a Joint Venture of Montgomery, Ala.; Core Tech-HDCC-Kajima, LLC of Tamuning, Guam; CWI-Weitz JV of McLean, Va; and Gilbane SMCC ECC LLC of Concord, Calif. (USN)

Edward Duane Quitugua Richards
/ Ashley Anne Ada Richards
(670) 789-8837 / (670) 285-8143

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter
of the Petition for the
Appointment of General
Guardianship for:

D.R.A.R.
Minor Child

FCD-GU CIVIL
ACTION NO.
20-0366

By:
Edward Duane
Quitugua Richards
Ashley Anne
Ada Richards
Petitioner

NOTICE OF
HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on April 9, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom Marianas Business Plaza, before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 2nd day of December, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Roberto "Rob" Lusito is no longer connected with Sagittarius Corporation dba as Sagittarius General Construction effective January 1, 2021.

Any business transaction made by him on the company's behalf will not be honored by the aforesaid Company. Please report any such unauthorized transaction to our contact numbers at (670) 235-4796 / 785-4796 or email us at sagittarius1197@gmail.com.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2021

Opening date: January 08, 2021

Closing date: January 29, 2021

Positions: (1) Mechanic-II (Saipan-ARFF)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, January 29, 2021**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Tuesday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin. Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.tenorio@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

NOW HIRING AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIANS

We are looking for Automotive Technicians who are highly detail-oriented with solid organizational and time management skills. The Technician is responsible for identifying necessary vehicle service and performing the diagnosis, repair, and/or service maintenance work.

If you possess these qualities, then we want you!

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- 2-3 years of automotive diagnosis, repairs, and problem-solving experience.
- ASE certification preferred, working knowledge of machine and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance.
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold its regular board meeting on **Friday, January 15, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.** The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building. The following agenda will be considered and public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 1. November 12, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
 - E. Correspondence
- II. Management Reports
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 - B. Chief Financial Officer's Report
- III. Committee Reports
- IV. Old Business
 - A. CHCC Billing/Payment Update
 - B. Power Plant, DE5 and DE7 Update
 - C. Bill re CHCC Water/Wastewater Rates Update
 - D. Cost of Service Study Update
 - E. CUC Master Plan Update
- V. New Business
 - A. Procurement Matters for Approval
 - B. Public Comments**
 - C. Executive Session***
 - D. Announcements
 - E. Adjournment

/s/ MIRANDA V. MANGLONA, Chairwoman

* In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by a recorded vote of the majority members of the governing body.
** All interested persons are welcome to attend, and submit written and oral testimony on the above-agenda items. Public Comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes.
*** Pursuant to 1 CMC §9912, the CUC Board of Directors may vote to meet at any time in executive session, in consultation with the Legal Counsel on matters deemed privileged and confidential.

Special Feature

Editor's Note: The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support from the community. Various activities have been conducted and projects have been launched to rally behind the destination enhancement campaign. This section will provide insights on how PPP supporters are committed to the program.



Together, We Can
Public Private Partnership

Palauan group adopts Naftan Point

A recent article in *The New York Times* listed Saipan as one of its 52 Places to Love in 2021.

Author Meghan West of Denver called Saipan the "island of hidden caves, covered in untamed jungle." She went on to add that runners/hikers she met showed her parts of the island she would never have found by herself.

A regular visitor and even a resident would definitely miss the many lush, untouched jungles that Saipan has that may lead them to even more breathtaking discoveries if they are made accessible to everyone.

The Naftan Point is one of them. Located at the southernmost tip of Saipan, Naftan Point offers spectacular views of sunrises, sight of dancing waves when one looks down the edge of the cliff, and a glimpse of World War II remnants.

Spectacular, right? Only if you know how to get there.

The Naftan Point, though one of the must-see sites on Saipan, presents a lot of challenges to visitors, with the road leading to the site covered in deep ruts and boulders and overgrown and thick grass, scrubs, and tree branches.

The Palauan Community Association of the CNMI hopes to ease the trek to Naftan Point by choosing to adopt the site in support of the Public Private Partnership initiative of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers.

"We decided to look at sites that are somehow abandoned but, if developed, can be an added tourist and community attractions. Naftan Point has a stunning view and other attractions, including war remnants. PCA-CNMI has adopted the first point of Naftan and aims to make it

more accessible for the general public to enjoy," said PCA-CNMI vice president Elsie S. Ngewakl.

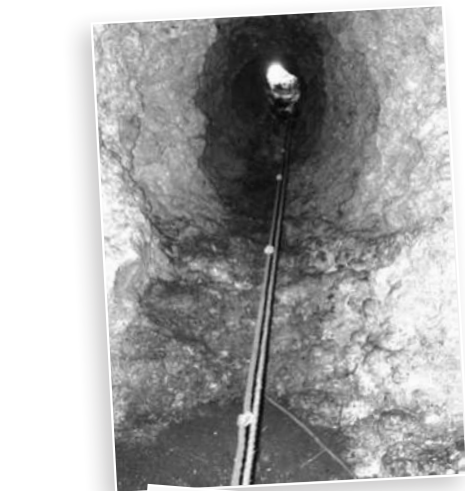
The PCA-CNMI plans to clear the heavy vegetation and access road from Hawaiian Rock to the first point where the ocean view and war remnants can be visible. The group will also do monthly cleanup drives on the road to Naftan Point and surrounding areas and put up trash bins and signages. Once the area has been cleared, PCA-CNMI will look into other improvement projects at Naftan Point, possibly adding railings and doing landscaping work at the site. The group is also considering installing pavilions and benches, depending on the availability of funding.

The PCA-CNMI is the latest non-profit organization to join the PPP—a destination transformation initiative that has drawn the support of 34 groups on Rota

and Saipan and has identified 22 sites needing improvement to help reboot the Commonwealth's tourism industry and protect the islands' treasures.

Though it only came on board the PPP last month, the group is no stranger to supporting programs that benefit the community. Through the years, the PCA-CNMI has taken part in community activities, such as cleanup drives, the Flame Tree Arts Festival, the Liberation Day Festivities, and International Festival of Cultures.

"The PCA-CNMI, our officials, and representatives of 16 states of Palau are honored and pleased to be part of the PPP. We are all responsible in taking care of the community we live in. And by working together, we can create a better community for ourselves, for the future generations, and for our guests," Ngewakl said. (PR)



Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Pro-Trump mobs aren't our only crisis. Jobs are evaporating while COVID deaths skyrocket

By JON HEALEY
Los Angeles Times*Jon Healey is the Los Angeles
Times' deputy editorial page editor.*

The U.S. economy has officially lost what little bounce was left in its step.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Friday that total non-farm employment decreased by 140,000 in December, the first decline since April's COVID-19-induced free fall. The unemployment rate, which is calculated through a separate survey of households, stayed unchanged at 6.7%, and the percentage of people either sidelined or too discouraged to continue looking for work held firm at 7.9%. Meanwhile, a recent report showed U.S. economic output declined slightly in November, also for the first time since April.

After rebounding strongly in the summer and tapering off in the fall, the economy appears to be going cold as we wait for the long COVID-19 nightmare to end.

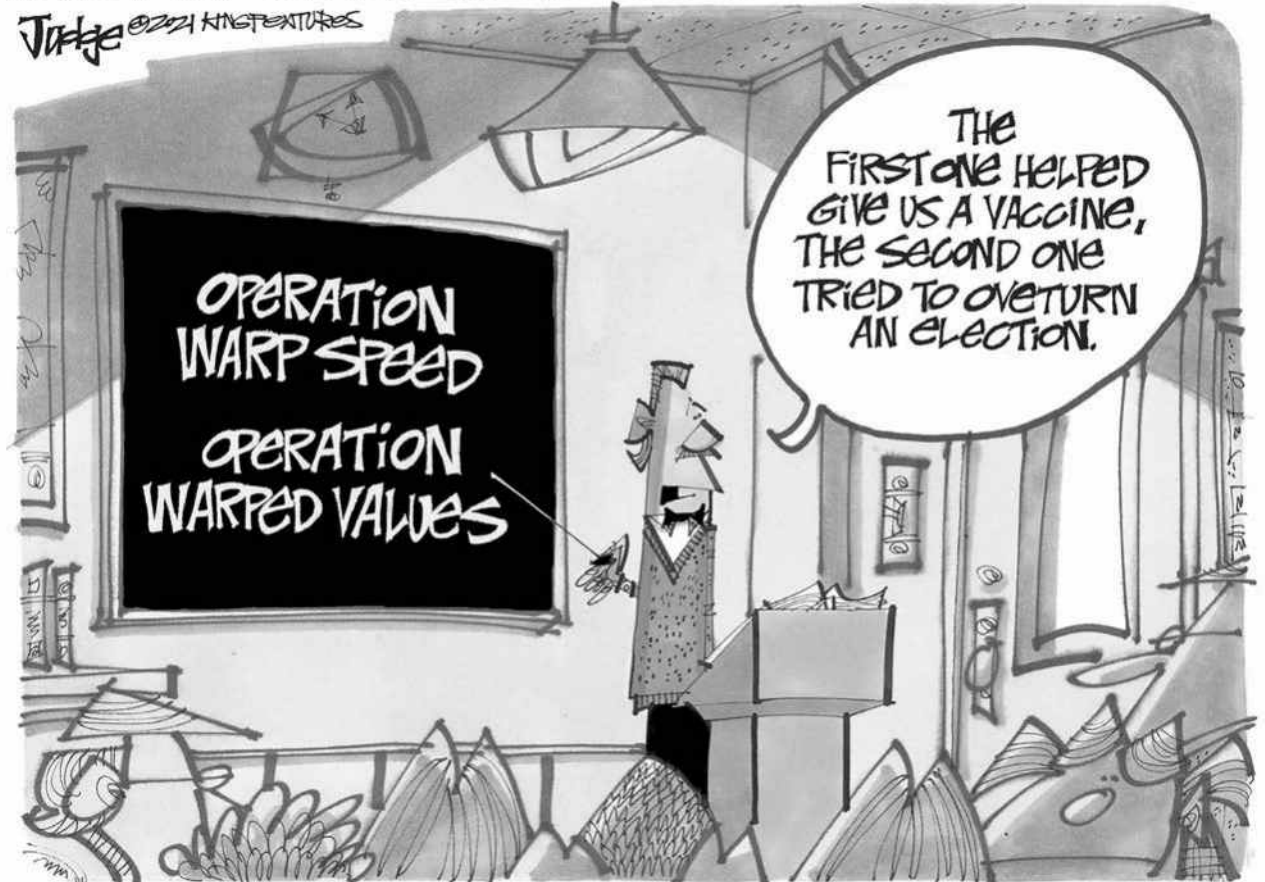
Those ugly numbers suggest the Biden administration will be launched into a headwind, not with a tailwind. That only increases the likelihood of another partisan battle soon over whether to inject more federal dollars into the economy, perhaps even before March, when the latest extension in unemployment benefits is due to run out.

The statistics are also a discouraging sign of how the public's inability to follow health and safety guidelines is strangling the economy. Yes, the decline in employment was caused at least in part by state and local governments' efforts to stop the spread of the disease. But those steps came in response to surges in COVID cases and hospitalizations, which stemmed largely from our own actions, not government lockdowns.

The BLS spotlighted some of the connective tissue between the coronavirus and the lousy jobs numbers: "In December, 15.8 million persons reported that they had been unable to work because their employer closed or lost business due to the pandemic—that is, they did not work at all or worked fewer hours at some point in the last four weeks due to the pandemic. This measure is 1.0 million higher than in November." But there was a wee bit of mollifying

See PRO-TRUMP on Next Page

A HISTORY CLASS IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE...



Three clashing truths about the Capitol riot

I still don't really know how to make sense of the events of Jan. 6. Instead of one interpretation, I see three different ways of thinking about what happened, and which probably need to be combined for full understanding. I'm not ready to do that combining right now, so instead I'll give you the three perspectives.

I'll start with the most pessimistic one. From this point of view, it's a story of the continued deterioration of the Republican Party as it moves closer to becoming nothing more than an anti-democratic cabal intent on one-party rule and, to a large extent, white supremacy.

In this version, we see President Donald Trump, the mob that invaded the Capitol, over half the Republican members of the House of Representatives, and several Republican senators as the successors of other extremists in recent U.S. history. Perhaps one might believe that there's a constant deterioration in which former Speaker Newt Gingrich was less committed to democratic norms and institutions than those who preceded him prior to 1995, and sitting politicians such as Sens. Ted Cruz and Josh Hawley are even worse, and the newest generation of Republican politicians hardly even bother pretending to support liberal democracy. We can see, too, the role of Republican-aligned media in spreading lies and how combustible that misinformation gets, especially when goaded along by elected public officials.

This perspective points to a bleak future—one in which the threat of political violence grows, while Republican politicians are constrained only when they lack the votes they need to dominate. If only they had congressional majorities; if only the presidential election had been closer; if only a few brave supporters of the republic hadn't stood up to Trump: If things were a bit different, they would have stolen a presidential election and walked away unharmed. They're stoked to try again next time.

Then there's a more optimistic interpretation. This one stresses that U.S. democratic institutions survived. Congress reconvened on Wednesday once the Capitol police routed the mob, and despite all of Trump's bluster, made no attempt to upend the election. This perspective must acknowledge the authoritarian faction within the Republican Party, but at the end of the day that faction was mainly just able to make a lot of noise. Almost every Republican member of Congress recoiled from the violence. Many publicly criticized Trump for encouraging insurrection, as did administration officials who resigned in protest.

There's no need to be naive: If Trump had his way he would have stolen the election, and far too many politicians and high visibility Republicans went along with him. It's a serious problem. But the political system eventually rejected Trump—who after all was something of a flukish worst-case scenario. What's

By JONATHAN BERNSTEIN
Bloomberg Opinion*Jonathan Bernstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering politics and policy. He taught political science at the University of Texas at San Antonio and DePauw University and wrote A Plain Blog About Politics.*

more, it doesn't appear at this point that the Democratic Party is going in the direction of emulating the Republicans. Democrats have certainly become more liberal and more ideological than they used to be, but at least for now they're rejected the strategy of finding a Trump of their own and have instead won with President-elect Joe Biden, of all people, an experienced professional politician running on a policy-heavy platform of national conciliation.

From this perspective, U.S. democracy may be eroding, but it's survived for now.

The third perspective? Political scientist Anne Ming writes: "Hot Take: We have been experiencing the pains of DEMOCRATIZATION, not democratic BACKSLIDING. The US through most of its history was way closer to institutionalized autocracy rather than a real democracy."

This point of view emphasizes that the U.S. claim to democratic exceptionalism prior to 1965 was shaky, and that a certain amount of backlash and trauma are natural in what is, after all, a very recent record of anything resembling inclusion. Recall that this isn't just about excluding Blacks and other groups from full citizenship. Southern states for decades featured one-party rule—not the lopsided advantages we see now in Democratic Massachusetts or Republican West Virginia, but states in which the old, racist Democratic Party held virtually all offices without any serious threat of a challenge.

This isn't necessarily an optimistic way of looking at things—there's no guarantee that democratization of any type will succeed and continue. But it does emphasize the extent to which the public sphere is open to far more people in 2021 than it was in 1960, or even in many ways than in 1990.

I'm confident that the truth is found in understanding the truths in all three of these perspectives. None of them is fully correct or fully wrong. Whether that's reassuring after Wednesday, I really can't say.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Wills versus trusts: Weighing the pros and cons

Almost everyone has heard of a will. And most people have some idea about trusts. But few people understand them beyond a superficial level. That's true of even most lawyers.

The common understanding is that wills and trusts are both ways to leave behind instructions for someone that you designate to organize and distribute your property to your loved ones, and that wills tend to be easier and cheaper while trusts are more complex and expensive. But the common understanding misses quite a bit.

A last will and testament is a formal document that goes into effect when you die. It names your heirs, explains how you want your estate to be distributed, and appoints an executor to initiate probate proceedings and carry out the will's instructions.

A trust is different. A trust is a separate entity that holds your property and administers that property in accordance with the trust agreement. The trust goes into effect while you are alive and has three parties: The grantor (the person who creates the trust), the trustee (the person who manages the trust), and the beneficiaries (the people who will receive the trust's property). For the most common types of trust (revocable living trusts), the person who creates the trust also manages the trust until they die, at which point a successor trustee named in the trust agreement will take over.

What are the advantages of a will? First, it lets you provide specific instructions about how you want your property to be distributed. Otherwise, your stuff will be distributed according to the CNMI's default rules (known as the law of intestacy). Second, if you have minor kids, a will gives you the chance to recommend who you'd like to take care of your kids for you. And, third, a will is straightforward to set up.

What are the disadvantages? First, the flip side of wills being straightforward is that they're also limited. They lack almost all of the bells and whistles that trusts can provide. Second, and

usually most important, wills must go through the probate process, which is slow and expensive (and, indeed, will usually cost much more than drafting the will). Third, if you have property in more than one jurisdiction, you'll need to go through probate in each of those places, greatly amplifying the delay and expense. And, fourth, because probate is a court-supervised process, it's also public. So, anyone can see your will and how your property was ultimately distributed.

What are the advantages of a trust?

First is privacy. Because property held in a trust bypasses the probate process, the public won't have the right to read your trust agreement and they won't know who received your property.

Second is speed. Avoiding probate also eliminates the delays involved in probate. So, your heirs will receive your property far faster, sometimes years faster.

Third is lower overall cost. This conclusion may come as a surprise since the upfront cost of setting up a trust will generally be more expensive than creating a will. But a trust avoids the back-end expense of going through probate. In other words, the total cost of creating and managing a revocable living trust is frequently cheaper than the overall cost of making a will and then going through probate.

Fourth is flexibility. A trust can serve many purposes that a will cannot. Want to minimize your taxes? A trust can, a will can't. Worried that your kids won't handle a sudden burst of wealth well? Your trust can give them payments over years or decades (whatever you think best). A will can't. Worried that your kid might eventually get divorced, and you want to keep your property in the immediate family? A trust can protect your assets, a will can't. And on and on.

What are the disadvantages of trusts?

First, they require more work upfront because you will essentially replicate the probate process when you set up the trust. But, on the bright side, it's much easier for you rather than your heirs

FINE PRINT**By JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer. His practice primarily focuses on business, real estate, estate planning, and asset protection. You can find his columns here every other Tuesday as well as on The Fine Print on Facebook. You can contact Mr. Sundell via this newspaper at editor@saipantribune.com or 235-6397/235-2440.

to do that work because you know what you own and where it is. That's not true for most heirs and executors pulled into the probate process unexpectedly who then have to play detective and hope they found all the debts and assets.

Second, trusts tend to be more expensive initially. Part of that is because of all the extra work early on compared to a will. And partially it's because the flexibility of trusts also makes them more complex.

Third, even if you create a trust, you'll still need a will. But it won't be the same kind of will. If you have a will-centered estate plan, the will is a long, detailed document that will need to go through probate. But if you have a trust-centered estate plan, the will is a short, simple document that will only be necessary if you forgot to transfer key assets into the trust. In that case, the will says that those assets belong to the trust and will be distributed according to the trust agreement.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

On pandemic response, an A for the scientists, an F for governments

When looking back on the pandemic, many Americans will be unable to separate the travails of 2020 and 2021 from their memories of Donald Trump, the president who made the perverse decision to depict their decisions to wear masks as politically motivated criticism of him—and who openly encouraged an attempted coup on Wednesday to keep him in power. But for those who can put this aside in evaluating the U.S. response to the crisis, here's what will jump out: What should have been the hardest challenge wasn't at all. And what should have been the easiest challenge has been inexplicably, unacceptably daunting.

On March 11—when movie stars Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson were revealed to be infected with the coronavirus, the NBA suspended its season after a player tested positive, and millions of Americans grasped that their lives were about to change radically—the idea that scientists could quickly come up with an effective vaccine was dismissed. In the 1960s, when the Merck pharmaceutical company developed a vaccine for mumps in four years, it was considered “the stuff of medical textbook legend,”

PRO-TRUMP

From Page 8

news too, according to the bureau: “Among those who reported in December that they were unable to work because of pandemic-related closures or lost business, 12.8 percent received at least some pay from their employer for the hours not worked, little changed from November.”

You might think that the record number of deaths this week—more than 4,000 Americans died from COVID-19 Thursday, a new high—would be enough to spur people to start complying rigorously with the stay-at-home orders and the admonitions to avoid gatherings, wear a mask and maintain social distance. And maybe it will. But we'd still have a problem with the disease spreading at workplaces deemed essential, whether it be grocers, malls or movie sets.

So, as bad as the news has been out of Washington, we can't ignore the bright, flashing warning signs telling us that economy is headed for worse times ahead. Stay safe and wear a mask, for everyone's sake.

per the history.com website. After polio was determined to be an infectious disease in 1905, it took medical researchers 48 years to develop an effective vaccination.

But well before March 11, scientists already were making major progress. On Jan. 11, Chinese authorities provided the genetic sequencing of SARS-CoV-2, better known as the coronavirus, to virological.org, a hub for raw scientific data meant to help both researchers and public health officials respond quickly to new health threats. Within weeks, Manhattan-based U.S. pharmaceutical giant Pfizer and its partner, the German firm BioNTech, had made considerable progress in coming up with a vaccine that worldwide testing eventually showed was more than 90 percent effective in preventing COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus.

The same held for work done by Moderna, a much smaller Cambridge, Massachusetts-based biotech firm. Last month, shortly after regulators approved Pfizer's vaccine, they approved Moderna's, which was also found to be more than 90% effective and is easier to distribute because it doesn't require extremely low storage temperatures.

Pfizer's rapid progress in particular astonished Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

“We went from a virus whose sequence was only known in January, and now in the fall, we're finishing—finishing—a Phase 3 trial,” he told a reporter for *The Atlantic* a month ago. “Holy mackerel!”

Yet this week, Fauci expressed not astonishment but extreme dismay at how little progress had been made in the United States in getting people vaccinated. As of Thursday, a Bloomberg News tracking site showed that only 5.5 million of the 17.3 million Pfizer and Moderna vaccines that had been distributed to states had been administered, with California having a worse record than the nation overall.

In some states, bureaucratic delays were blamed. In others, there were disputes over who should be prioritized, and infighting that led to vaccines expiring and being thrown out instead of being provided to those in the vicinity who weren't prioritized. The *New York Times* reported that some stakeholders argued that social justice should be a factor in giving front-line workers, often people of color, vaccines before

By CHRIS REED

The San Diego Union-Tribune



Chris Reed is deputy editor of The San Diego Union-Tribune editorial and opinion section. Twitter: @calwhine. Email: chris.reed@sduniontribune.com.

the older people at most immediate risk of dying from COVID-19. But if helping front-line workers leads to dead older Black and brown Americans, who are dying at among the highest rates of any groups, that's not a favor to persons of color generally.

Decisions about who would get the vaccines first should have been made a half-year ago. And in an America half as competently managed as your average supermarket, the logistics of rapid deployment would have long since been worked out.

This dawdling is indefensible. In a competent nation, even if the federal government ducked the lead role in making such decisions, as it did under distracted Donald, states would have quickly set up comprehensive guidelines and began training first responders—and maybe even drugstore clerks—to administer vaccines 24-7. Within hours after vaccines were received, they would be given.






In other words, America would be like Israel. On Monday, *The Washington Post* reported that the nation is “delivering shots so quickly that it is outstripping its supply of vaccine.”

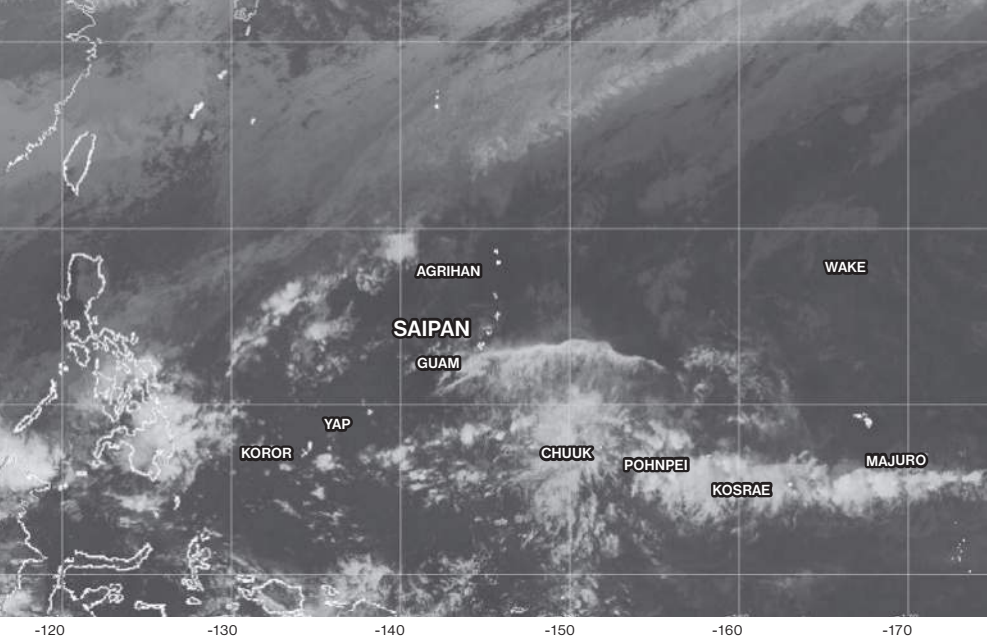
Imagine that—a country where a once-in-a-century health nightmare was actually treated by leaders like a once-in-a-century health nightmare.

American (and German) scientists deserve an A. American governments deserve an F. As a result of their lapses, the final U.S. COVID-19 death toll—now 361,000 and rising—will be far higher than it should have been.

Maybe the next time we have a pandemic, the scientists should be in charge of the paperwork and the logistics, not just the vaccine research—at least if the goal, yunno, is keeping people alive.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.		Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:37 AM, MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180. Partly cloudy skies with moderate trade winds and only few showers prevail across the Marianas this morning. Buoys show seas between 4 and 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.


- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20



seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	85° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	83° / 79°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	83° / 81°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Wednesday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM
Thursday	6:46 AM	6:05 PM
Friday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:06 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	5:36 AM	5:05 PM	-
Wednesday	6:37 AM	6:06 PM	-
Thursday	7:33 AM	7:06 PM	-
Friday	8:24 AM	8:04 PM	-
Saturday	9:10 AM	8:59 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	76° / 64°	
Beijing	Sunny	39° / 20°	
Hong Kong	Sunny	62° / 50°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	81° / 71°	
London	Light Rain	43° / 40°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	72° / 49°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	84° / 72°	
Melbourne	Cloudy	69° / 54°	
Miami	Cloudy	77° / 67°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	44° / 32°	
Osaka	Rain/Snow	42° / 34°	
Paris	Light Rain	50° / 42°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	41° / 33°	
Rome	Sunny	50° / 31°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	53° / 32°	
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	58° / 44°	
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	36° / 24°	
Tokyo	Rain	43° / 32°	
Washington, DC	Sunny	49° / 29°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:52 AM	Low Tide	-0.74	
8:09 AM	High Tide	1.75	
1:19 PM	Low Tide	1.11	
6:07 PM	High Tide	1.83	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY				
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
GUAM TO ROTA				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

Business

Docomo installs Aura Air smart air filters in all retail locations, call center

» Provides safer shopping environment for customers

TAMUNING, Guam—Docomo Pacific, regional leader in innovation, telecommunications, and entertainment, has installed Aura Air smart air filters in all of its retail locations and call center.

In November, Docomo Pacific partnered with Aura Air to bring a smart air filter solution to the Marianas. Aura Air smart air filters have been installed in all Docomo Pacific retail locations in Guam and Saipan to provide the safest shopping environment for our customers and our teams who serve them.

"As an essential business, our stores have been operating throughout the pandemic and the responsibility of providing a safe environment for our

teams and our customers has been enormous. Having the Aura Air filters in our stores add an extra layer of security. They filter COVID-19 particles in the air and improve overall indoor air quality. My teams feel so much more confident reporting to work. And we want our customers to feel the same when they visit us,"

said Docomo Pacific Retail & Customer Care senior manager Raelene Campos.

An all-in-one indoor air purification and quality intelligence system, Aura filters 99.9% of COVID-19 particles in the air and disinfects indoor air through a unique four-stage purification process while vigilantly moni-



Aura Air smart air filters have been installed in all Docomo Pacific retail locations in Guam and Saipan. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Aura Air smart air filters filter COVID-19 particles in the air and improve overall indoor air quality. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

toring its quality in real-time. When hazards are detected, Aura alerts you immediately, providing crucial intelligence as to the origin of the problem, solutions of how to rectify it, and alarms if immediate action or evacuation is required. While keeping you informed of the conditions inside your home or business, Aura also monitors outdoor air quality, providing you a holistic picture of today and what's to come tomorrow.

Aura Air units are available now at Docomo Pacific retail locations.

For more details on Aura Air, please see our introductory press release: <https://bettertogether.pr.co/>.

Docomo Pacific is a wholly owned subsidiary of NTT Docomo, Japan's leading mobile operator. Headquartered in Tamuning, Guam, Docomo Pacific is the largest provider of personal, residential, enterprise connectivity and en-

tertainment services in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. Named Guam's most reliable network, based on GWS' 2019 OneScore ranking. We are also the 5-time winner of Pika's Best of Guam and 4-time winner of Best of The Pacific. Docomo Pacific dedicated to bringing you and your family closer to the things that matter most. Get to know more about what makes us "Better Together" at www.docomopacific.com. (PR)

Businesses rethink political donations after Capitol siege

Businesses are rethinking political contributions in the wake of the deadly Capitol siege by President Donald Trump's supporters on Wednesday.

Citigroup confirmed Sunday that it is pausing all federal political donations for the first three months of the year. Others, like Marriott, are only stopping donations to the 147 Republicans who opposed certifying President-elect Joe Biden's election.

In a memo to employees Friday, Citi's head of global government affairs Candi Wolff said "we want you to be assured that we will not support candidates who do not respect the rule of law."

"We support engaging with our political leaders even when we disagree, and our PAC is an important tool for that engagement," Wolff wrote, adding that the company in 2019 donated \$1,000 to the campaign of Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO), who represents a state in which Citi has a lot of employees.

In all, Citi's political action committee donated \$742,000 to federal candidates in 2019-2020 according to OpenSecrets, a group that tracks political donations. Of this, \$413,500—or about 56%—

went to Republicans and the rest to Democrats.

Unlike other companies, Citi says it is pausing all federal contributions. Medical device maker Boston Scientific said Sunday it is doing the same, while it reviews its approach to political donations. The company said it believes in "respecting the integrity of the democratic process, the election outcome and the peaceful transition of power."

The trade group representing one of the nation's best known health insurance brands, meanwhile, said it's suspending political contributions to lawmakers who voted last week to reject the Electoral College results that cemented Democrat Joe Biden's victory over President Donald Trump in the November election.

The Blue Cross Blue Shield Association represents 36 regional and local insurers who use the brand, together covering about 1 in 3 Americans.

In a statement, Kim Keck, the group's CEO and president, says it will continue to support lawmakers and candidates in both political parties who "will work with us to build a stronger, healthier nation." (AP)

New law cracks down on shell companies to combat corruption

MIAMI (AP)—For years as a federal prosecutor in New York, Daniel R. Alonso led teams that had to search through a maze of anonymously owned corporate entities to expose criminal activity.

"It required all kinds of shoe-leather investigating to identify who was really behind these shell companies," recalled Alonso. "You'd have to subpoena bank records and lawyers, as well as human sources, and even then you frequently hit a dead end."

Now, thanks to a watershed overhaul of U.S. money laundering laws, locating the proceeds from foreign bribery, drug trafficking and financing for terrorists could be as easy as a few keystrokes.

The new legislation quietly passed by Congress last month after a decade-long fight is the most sweeping banking reform of its kind since passage of the Patriot Act, in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

For the first time, shell companies will be required to provide the names of their owners or face stiff penalties and jail sentences. The information will be stored in a confidential database accessible to federal law enforcement and shared

with banks who are often unwitting accomplices to international corruption.

"It's not an overstatement that this law is a game changer in some serious ways," said Alonso, who is now in private practice advising clients on foreign corruption and anti-money laundering issues.

The Corporate Transparency Act was tucked into a defense spending bill first vetoed by President Donald Trump and then overridden by Congress on New Year's Day.

It was introduced by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, a New York Democrat, in 2010 and early on faced opposition from banks and business groups worried about red tape as well as states such as Delaware and Wyoming, which reap important revenues from the registration every year in the U.S. of nearly 2 million corporations and limited liability companies.

But a string of international financial scandals involving soccer's governing body FIFA and the 1MDB development bank from Malaysia, as well as the leaking of the so-called Panama Papers, eventually softened criticism by revealing the prominent role played by secretive shell

companies in hiding the proceeds from illicit activity.

The U.S. financial system—the world's largest and most stable—has long been a magnet for dirty money. But the tools to prevent abuse by bad actors haven't kept pace with technology and a proliferation of instant, online transactions across borders.

The new law seeks to strengthen controls by creating a registry managed by the Treasury Department that will contain the names of the true owners of both domestically-created shell companies as well as foreign ones conducting business in the U.S.

Creating a shell company in states like Delaware requires little more than a payment of a \$90 fee and a one-page letter listing the entity's name, P.O. Box and a registered agent who is frequently a law firm dedicated to churning out companies in bulk. The true owners are rarely listed, their identities hidden under a web of subsidiaries. But once created, the entities can be used to purchase legitimate assets, such as real estate, using ill-gotten funds furtively transferred into a U.S. bank account.

One such Delaware-based company, Essential Con-

sultants LLC, was used by Trump's former personal attorney, Michael Cohen, to conceal hush money payments to porn star Stormy Daniels. Others registered in the state have been tied to corrupt military officers in Venezuela, drug trafficking guerrillas from Colombia and former Zimbabwean dictator Robert Mugabe.

"Congress was late to acknowledge that secrecy is alive and well in the United States," said David P. Weber, a former U.S. Treasury investigator who was one of two experts to review the Panama Papers before publication. He now is a forensic accounting professor at Salisbury University in Maryland. "Kleptocrats and corrupt foreign officials did not need secret bank accounts in Switzerland. They were right here."

Less touted, the law also dramatically expands awards for whistleblowers. Specifically, individuals who come forward with evidence of financial malfeasance are entitled to receive up to 30% of money seized by the Treasury or Justice Departments when their information leads to successful law enforcement actions. Previously, awards were capped at \$150,000.

Nation

WASHINGTON (AP)—Despite ample warnings about pro-Trump demonstrations in Washington, U.S. Capitol Police did not bolster staffing on Wednesday and made no preparations for the possibility that the planned protests could escalate into massive violent riots, according to several people briefed on law enforcement's response.

The revelations shed new light on why Capitol police were so quickly overrun by rioters. The department had the same number of officers in place as on a routine day. While some of those officers were outfitted with equipment for a protest, they were not staffed or equipped for a riot.

Once the mob began to move on the Capitol, a police lieutenant issued an order not to use deadly force, which explains why officers outside the building did not draw their weapons as the crowd closed in. Officers are sometimes ordered against escalating a situation by drawing their weapons if superiors believe doing so could lead to a stampede or a shootout.

In this instance, it also left officers with little ability to resist the mob. In one video from the scene, an officer puts up his fists to try to push back a crowd pinning him and his colleagues against a door. The crowd jeers "You are not American!" and one man tries to prod him with the tip of an American flag.

"They were left naked," Rep. Maxine Waters, D-California, said of the police in an interview with AP. She had



AP
Supporters of President Donald Trump climb on an inauguration platform on the West Front of the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

Capitol police were overrun, 'LEFT NAKED' AGAINST RIOTERS

raised security concerns in a Dec. 28 meeting of House Democrats and grilled Steven Sund, the Capitol Police chief, during an hourlong private call on New Year's Eve. "It turns out it was the worst kind of non-security anybody could ever imagine."

The Capitol police's lackluster response to the riots, poor planning and failure to anticipate the seriousness of the threat have drawn condemnation from lawmakers

and prompted the ouster of the department's chief and the Sergeants at Arms of both the House and Senate.

As the full extent of the insurrection becomes clear, the FBI is also investigating whether some of the rioters had plans to kidnap members of Congress and hold them hostage.

Investigators are particularly focused on why some of them were seen carrying plastic zip-tie handcuffs and had

apparently accessed areas of the Capitol generally difficult for the public to locate, according to an official.

The official was among four officials briefed on Wednesday's incident who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation publicly.

Larry Rendell Brock, of Texas, and Eric Gavelek Munchel, of Tennessee, who both were photographed with plastic restraints as they broke into the Capitol, were arrested by the FBI on Sunday. Prosecutors said Brock also donned a green helmet, tactical vest and camouflage jacket.

The crowd that arrived in Washington on Wednesday

was no surprise. Trump had been urging his supporters to come to the capital and some hotels had been booked to 100% capacity - setting off alarm bells because tourism in Washington has cratered amid the pandemic. Justice officials, FBI and other agencies began to monitor flights and social media for weeks and were expecting massive crowds.

A leader of the far-right extremist group Proud Boys was arrested coming into the city with high-powered magazine clips emblazoned with the group's logo, police said. The clips were not loaded, but he was planning to attend a rally near the White House.

Capitol police leaders, however, had prepared for a free speech demonstration. No fencing was erected outside the Capitol and no contingency plans were prepared in case the situation escalated, according to people briefed.

Rep. Jason Crow, a Democrat from Colorado, said Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy told lawmakers on Sunday that the Defense Department and law enforcement officials had prepared for a crowd similar to protests in November and December, in the "low thousands" and that they had been preparing for small, disparate violent events, like stabbings and fist fights. McCarthy also said Sund and Mayor Muriel Bowser had called for urgent reinforcements from the Defense Department as the crowd surged toward officers but were "unable to articulate what resources are needed and in what locations, due to chaos."

Trump remains defiant amid calls to resign

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump enters the last days of his presidency isolated and shunned by former allies and members of his own party as he faces a second impeachment and growing calls for his resignation after his supporters launched an assault on the nation's Capitol in an effort to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power.

Cut off from the social media channels that have been the lifeblood of his presidency, Trump will nonetheless try to go on offense in his last 10 days, with no plans of resigning.

Instead, Trump is planning to lash out against the companies that have now denied him his Twitter and Facebook bullhorns. And aides hope he will spend his last days trying to trumpet his policy accomplishments, beginning with a trip to Alamo, Texas, on Tuesday to highlight his administration's efforts to curb illegal

immigration and border wall construction.

Trump's decision to travel to Alamo—named after the San Antonio mission where a small group of Texans fighting for independence against the Mexican government were defeated after a 13-day siege—served as a symbol of his defiance as he faces the most volatile end of any presidency in modern history.

Trump has not taken any responsibility for his role in inciting Wednesday's violence amid a rebellion from members of his own party and ongoing efforts to remove him from office. A second Republican senator, Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania, on Sunday called for Trump's resignation after Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska told the Anchorage Daily News: "I want him out."

It was a stunning reversal for a man who had once been considered the leading con-

tender for his party's nomination in 2024, and could now be stripped of his ability to run for a second term.

A new ABC News/Ipsos poll released Sunday found that over half of Americans—56%—believe that Trump should be removed from office before his term ends. And two-thirds of respondents - 67%—said he deserves a "good amount" or a "great deal" of blame for the rioting last week.

Trump had delivered a speech to his supporters in which he repeatedly said the election was being stolen and urged them to "fight" before they rushed the Capitol as lawmakers were in the process of certifying Biden's wins. The violent crowd forced its way inside, ransacked the building and sent terrified staff and lawmakers, including the vice president, into hiding. Five, including a Capitol police officer, died.

Pelosi: House 'will proceed' to impeachment of Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Sunday the House will proceed with legislation to impeach President Donald Trump, calling him a threat to democracy after the deadly assault on the Capitol.

Pelosi made the announcement in a letter to colleagues. She said the House will act with solemnity but also urgency with just days remaining before Trump is to leave office on Jan. 20.

"In protecting our Constitution and our Democracy, we will act with urgency, because this President represents an imminent threat to both," she said.

"The horror of the ongoing assault on our democracy perpetrated by this President is intensified and so is the immediate need for action."

Pelosi said that first the

House will try to force Vice President Mike Pence and the Cabinet to oust Trump by invoking the 25th Amendment.

On Monday, House leaders will work to swiftly pass legislation to do that. If it is blocked by Republicans, which is almost certain, the House will convene for a full House vote Tuesday.

Pelosi explained that the resolution calls on Pence "to convene and mobilize the Cabinet to activate the 25th Amendment to declare the President incapable of executing the duties of his office." Under the procedure, the vice president "would immediately exercise powers as acting President," she wrote.

Pence is not expected to take the lead in forcing Trump out, although talk has been circulating about the 25th Amendment option for

days in Washington.

Next, the House would move to consider the articles of impeachment, Pelosi said. The day for an impeachment vote was not set.

With impeachment planning intensifying, two Republican senators said they want Trump to resign immediately as efforts mount to prevent Trump from ever again holding elective office in the wake of deadly riots at the Capitol.

House Democrats were expected to introduce articles of impeachment on Monday. The strategy would be to condemn the president's actions swiftly but delay an impeachment trial in the Senate for 100 days. That would allow President-elect Joe Biden to focus on other priorities as soon as he is inaugurated Jan. 20.

Asia

Search for crashed Indonesian plane's black boxes intensifies

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—The search for the black boxes of a crashed Sriwijaya Air jet intensified Monday to boost the investigation into what caused the plane carrying 62 people to nosedive at high velocity into the Java Sea.

The Boeing 737-500 jet disappeared minutes after taking off from Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, during heavy rain on Saturday, and the search so far has yielded plane parts and human remains but no sign of survivors.

Authorities have said signals from the boxes containing the cockpit voice and flight data recorders were detected between Lancang and Laki islands in the Thousand Island chain just north of Jakarta's coast. Officials said they have marked a location where the sounds were being emitted from the black boxes, which detached from the tail of the aircraft when it plummeted into the sea.

The cockpit voice recorder holds conversations between pilots, and the data recorder tracks electronic information such as airspeed, altitude and vertical acceleration. When found, they will be transported to port and handed to the National Transportation Safety Committee overseeing the crash investigation.

More than a dozen helicopters, 53 navy ships and 20 boats, and 2,600 rescue personnel have been searching since Sunday and have found parts of the plane in the water at a depth of 23 meters (75 feet), leading rescuers to continue searching the area.

Television footages showed landing gear, wheels and a jet engine among the parts found, while other rescuers brought a dozen body bags containing human remains to a police hospital in eastern Jakarta for the identification process.

The National Search and Rescue Agency chief Bagus Puruhito said divers using high-tech "ping locator" equipment were looking for an identified target beneath 20 meters (65 feet) of seabed mud.

The transport committee's chairman, Soerjanto Tjahjono, said the black boxes could provide valuable information to investigators. Once the device is found and taken to the investigators' facility, it will take three to five days to dry and clean the device and to download its data, Tjahjono said.

He said it need more time to analyze it, "depending on the complexity of the problem."

The committee's investigator Nurcahyo Utomo, said they have collected recordings and transcripts of the

conversation between the pilot and air traffic controllers as part of their investigation into the cause of the crash.

Utomo said his team is still examining radar data on the plane's movements and interviewed the air traffic officers who were in charge of controlling the crashed flight. More interviews of witnesses, including with the airlines' technicians, fishermen and experts, will be done in the near future.

Investigators are investigating all parts of the plane found by searchers from the seafloor such as the Ground Proximity Warning System, a device that could warn the pilot if the plane is too close to the ground, a radio altimeter and several other parts mostly from the lower side of the aircraft's tail, Utomo said.

He said that Singapore's Transport Safety Investigation Bureau will help his committee in searching for the black boxes and the United States' National Transportation Safety Board will join in investigating the crash.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation, with more than 260 million people, has been plagued by transportation accidents on land, sea and air because of overcrowding on ferries, aging infrastructure and poorly enforced safety standards.

N. Korea's Kim adds title: General secretary of ruling party

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was given a new title, "general secretary" of the ruling Workers' Party, formerly held by his late father and grandfather, state media reported Monday, in what appears to a symbolic move aimed at bolstering his authority amid growing economic challenges.

The party's ongoing congress, the first in kind in five years, announced Kim's new title during its sixth-day session on Sunday. A congress statement said Kim "has gloriously realized the historic mission to complete the country's nuclear build-up plan," according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

It's largely a symbolic appointment as Kim already was the party's top leader. During a 2016 party congress, he was named to "party chairman," the equivalent of "general secretary" held by his father Kim Jong Il and grandfather Kim Il Sung. Before the 2016 congress, Kim Jong Un had

led the party with the title of "first secretary."

Since inheriting power upon his father's death in late 2011, Kim, 37, has gradually consolidated his grip on power through a series of high-profile executions and purges that removed his potential rivals. He has also taken up a spate of top jobs that includes chairman of the State Affairs Commission and supreme commander of the North's 1.2 million-member military, along with the top party post.

The two late North Korean leaders have kept posthumous titles—Kim Jong Il remains "eternal general secretary" and Kim Il Sung is "eternal president."

The Kim family has ruled North Korea with a strong personality cult that elevated key family members to a god-like status since Kim Il Sung founded the country in 1948. Their family's mythical "Paektu" bloodline, named after the highest peak on the Korean Peninsula, only gives their direct

family members the rights to rule the impoverished yet nuclear-armed nation.

Among notable personnel changes announced Monday was the name of Kim Jong Un's influential sister, Kim Yo Jong, missing from a new list of officials at the party's powerful Politburo. Being in charge of relations with rival South Korea, she was an alternate member of the Politburo and some observers earlier predicted she would be promoted to a full member of the bureau in a bid by her brother to reinforce the Kim family's rule. It wasn't immediately clear why the 32-year-old was dismissed from her Politburo post.

On Sunday, state media said the congress had determined to change the party's "Executive Policy Council into Secretariat." The decision would lead to party officials to relinquish their current titles such as chairman and vice chairman and start using old titles such as secretary or vice secretary.

World



A health-care worker sanitises her hands before conducting COVID-19 tests at a Dis-Chem drive-through testing station at the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town, South Africa, Friday, Jan. 8, 2021. AP

Africa exceeds 3M COVID cases, 30% in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Africa passed the milestone of 3 million confirmed cases COVID-19 on Sunday, including more than 72,000 deaths, according to the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

South Africa, with more than 1.2 million reported cases, including 32,824 deaths, accounts for more than 30% of the total for the continent of 54 countries and 1.3 billion people. The high proportion of cases in South Africa, could be because the country carries out more tests than many other African countries.

South Africa is battling a resurgence of the disease, driven by a variant of the virus that is more contagious and spread-

ing quickly. Many hospitals are reaching capacity, yet the numbers of those infected are expected to continue rising, according to health experts.

South Africa's seven-day rolling average of daily new cases has risen over the past two weeks from 19.86 new cases per 100,000 people on Dec. 26 to 30.18 new cases per 100,000 people on Jan. 9, according to Johns Hopkins University.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will meet with his Cabinet this week to consider if further restrictions should be taken to slow the spread of the disease, while balancing the need to encourage economic growth. The government has already re-

imposed measures including a ban on the sales of liquor, the closure of bars and restricting the number of people who can attend public gatherings.

Later in January, South Africa expects to receive its first delivery of a vaccine, 1.5 million doses of the AstraZeneca shot. The government said its first priority will be to inoculate the country's 1.25 million health workers. It expects to receive more vaccines through the WHO's COVAX initiative in April.

South African health minister Zweli Mkhize said that his aim is to see 67% of the country's 60 million people vaccinated by the end of 2021, a goal that many health experts say is laudable but unrealistic.

UK ramps up vaccine rollout, targets every adult by autumn

LONDON (AP)—Britain's health secretary said Sunday that every adult in the country will be offered a COVID-19 vaccine by the autumn as the U.K. ramps up its mass vaccination program amid a huge surge of infections and hospital admissions.

More than 600,000 people age 80 and over will begin receiving invitations this week to get the coronavirus shot at new large-scale vaccine centers around England. Health Secretary Matt Hancock said that officials were "on track" to reach its target of inoculating about 15 million people in the most vulnerable groups by the middle of February.

The vaccination drive comes as the U.K. sees a steep increase in infections and record numbers of COVID-19 patients being hospitalized, with many experts warning that the situation is more dire

than it was when the country went into its first lockdown last spring. The Office of National Statistics estimated that 1 in 50 people in England had the virus in the most recent week.

Daily reported deaths hit a record high Friday, at 1,325, and in total around 81,000 people have died after testing positive for COVID-19. That's the highest in Europe and comes just behind the U.S., Brazil, India and Mexico.

Hancock said that more than 200,000 people are being vaccinated in England every day, and that by autumn, the entire adult population should have been offered a jab.

"We've got over 350 million doses on order—they're not all here yet. We're rolling them out as fast as they get delivered," he told the BBC. "But we are going to have enough to be able to offer a vaccine to everyone over the

age of 18 by the autumn."

That's distant hope for doctors, nurses and emergency workers experiencing unprecedented pressure right now. Tracy Nicholls, the chief executive of the College of Paramedics, said members have reported ambulances left lining up outside hospitals waiting for up to nine hours, unable to hand patients over to emergency rooms.

"This year particularly has seen incredible pressure because of the clinical presentation of the patients our members are seeing. They are sicker," she told Sky News on Sunday. "We are seeing the ambulance handover delays at a scale we haven't seen before."

The seven new large-scale vaccination centers join around 1,000 other sites across the country, including hospitals, general practitioners' clinics and some drugstores.

Overdrive

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

Kia is on a roll these days with the sensational Stinger Sportback and Telluride SUV. Mainstream products with premium flair, they beg the question: Why pay 70 grand for a luxury brand when you can have the same vehicle for \$45,000 under a mainstream badge?

Kia asks the question again with its all-new, mid-size Sorento SUV.

Remade from bumper to bumper, the fourth-generation Sorento takes its cues from big brother Telluride and offers a brawny bod with a brainy interior. Kinda that bearded Hugh Jackman lumberjack look.



A surround view monitor uses four cameras to provide a 360-degree view around the vehicle to assist in parking.

KIA/TNS

Sorento SUV is luxe ute in Kia clothing

The Telluride did it so effortlessly. You remember the ads. The three-row Telluride roguishly running with the bulls while a narrator intoned: “When we designed Telluride we asked ourselves: Would it be ruthless or beautiful? Muscular or sophisticated? Down to earth or a work of art? The answer was simple: Yes.”

Oh, we swooned over that one. And the Telluride flew off the shelves. Its value equation was absurd—a three-row SUV that looked like a Cadillac but priced five grand less than a comparable Ford Explorer. Kia was giving away candy.

“By aiming high, Kia has created a premium product at nonpremium prices. It’s what we call a (Lexus) LS400 mo-

ment and that’s significant. Get one before Kia realizes what it’s done and raises the price,” writes Car and Driver this year in naming Telluride one of its 2020 10 Best.

Sorento copies the same formula. Not that the last-gen Sorento was a dog. It scored 11 on value, too. But with Telluride halo raising the bar, mid-size Sorento rises with it. It’s slotted between the compact Kia Sportage and Telluride and targeted at the Ford Edge, Chevy Blazer, Hyundai Santa Fe, Nissan Murano and Honda Passport among others.

As automakers try to slake our SUV thirst, the differences between multiple segments are thin. Kia is particularly adept at slicing the roast with

a buffet of choices including Soul, Seltos, Niro, Passport, Sedona (minivan), Sorento and Telluride.

But Telluride has really changed the game for the brand.

It’s enormous popularity—“we are getting customers trading in Land Rovers, Mercedes and Volvos for this SUV,” says product manager Mark Sovino—has forced Sorento to re-imagine its personality. Once Kia’s three-row family SUV, Sorento has surrendered that mantle to Telluride.

It’s now tasked to pitch empty nesters like myself and Mrs. Payne. No longer in need of a big family hauler, folks like us still covet the room of

a big SUV but don’t want to show up at the dinner party driving the same ol’ Ford Explorer/Chevy Traverse/Telluride family bus.

My Sorento SX and X-line testers looked hot.

Not as hot as the Chevy Blazer RS—which appears to have been designed by Marvel Comics as Iron Man’s daily driver—but certainly a step above Passport or conservative Korean cousin Santa Fe. Gone are the rounded edges (love handles?) of the previous generation, replaced by a sculpted, high belt-line and gritty, full-sized grille. Off-road, X-line trim? Check. Sexy black wheels? Check. Distinctive LED light front and rear? Double check.

Frankly, the family Telluride still looks better, its signature square headlights and vertical taillights noticeable from miles away. I wish Sorento got the latter just as every Volvo gets vertical taillights. Where Sorento really

channels Telluride’s vibe is under the sheet metal.

Indeed, it laps the Tellu-

ride when it comes to powertrain options.

Where Telluride offers a competent 291-horse, 3.8-liter V-6, little brother Sorento has a toolbox of 2.5-liter 4-banger, turbo-4, hybrid, and plug-in hybrid. This is a luxe-worthy lineup.

Speed-addled monster that I am, I prefer the turbo-4 with 311-pound feet of torque that exceeds even the Telluride’s 262 number. Heck, it’s even on par with the Mazda CX-9 and its stump-pulling four (more on the Mazda in a moment).

But for those without my size 15 lead foot, the Sorento hybrid is just \$39,000—\$5,000 less than a comparable SX turbo-4 model that I tested. Both boast front-wheel drive, panoramic sunroof and interior amenities galore, but the hybrid model gets a whopping 650 miles of range.

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Kia Sorento

- **Vehicle type:** Front- or all-wheel drive, four-door, six- or seven-passenger SUV
- **Price:** \$30,560, including \$1,170 destination charge (\$42,205 FWD SX Prestige and \$43,960 AWD SX Prestige with X-line package as tested)
- **Powerplant:** 2.5-liter inline 4-cylinder, 2.5-liter turbo-4, Hybrid 1.6-liter turbo-4 mated to FWD electric motor
- **Power:** 191 horsepower, 181 pound-feet of torque (2.5-liter); 281 horsepower, 311 pound-feet of torque (2.5-liter turbo-4); 227 horsepower, 258 pound-feet of torque (hybrid)
- **Transmission:** 8-speed automatic; 6-speed automatic (hybrid only)
- **Performance:** 0-62 mph, 7.6 seconds (mfr., X-line); towing, 3,500 lbs.
- **Weight:** 4,120 pounds (X-line as tested)
- **Fuel economy:** EPA 21 mpg city/28 highway/24 combined (AWD turbo-4); 39 mpg city/35 highway/37 combined (hybrid)

Report card

- **Highs:** Sexier Sorento; affordable, multiple drivetrains
- **Lows:** Drivetrain hiccups; handsome big brother Telluride can be had for similar price with same options
- **Overall:** 3 stars

What is a ‘certified used car’?

Q: What does it mean to buy a certified car? When I got my used 2018 Toyota Camry SE nearly a year ago, they played up the certified car bit, but I found out later that it does not mean anything. I feel this dealer is doing an injustice to their customers. I tried to get that answer from the dealership manager and others. No one can answer. In their shop no one can answer questions regarding the information on my dash screens. It also jerks when changing gears, but they will not look at it. Toyotas should be great cars, but not this one.

A: Did you buy the car from a Toyota dealer? Certified Previously Owned (CPO) cars usually have fewer miles and may have had better care. They usually have extended warranties. CPO cars pass a multi-point inspection to verify that repairs are not imminent. Of course, you will pay a little more than for a comparable car that has no CPO, but it is a more reliable purchase. It sounds like you may have been taken by a not-so-honest used car lot. Independent dealers can slap CPO signs on anything. It is just a meaningless piece of paper.

Q: You recently said that car batteries have 6.1 volts per cell. I’m thinking you might have meant 2.1 volts per cell.

A: Right you are.

Q: I wonder if the Intelligent Oil-Life Management (IOLM) 10,000-mile standard set forth in the owner’s manual can be trusted. Will it protect the engine versus the 5,000 mile-standard the dealer recommends? Normal vehicle usage is assumed. Also, my question is whether or not the warranty would be affected.

A: Yes, oil life monitors can be trusted. Automobile manufacturers don’t want people to stop buying their vehicles because they break down so they are careful to put the best information in the owners’ manuals. Following the recommendations saves you money while reducing the amount of petrochemical waste. Neither following the monitor nor changing the oil more often will affect the warranty.

Q: I own a 2010 Toyota Tacoma truck with 42,000 miles on it. Several years ago, when I had an oil change, the dealership put in synthetic oil instead of regular oil. A couple of months ago, the dealership did the same thing. Will this damage my vehicle? Should I just switch to synthetic?

A: Synthetic oil will certainly not damage your engine. You may use it exclusively if you like. But if you want to switch back to traditional oil recommended in the owner’s manual, there will be no harm.

Q: Owning a truck, an SUV and four motorcycles, I’ve

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber’s work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

come to the realization that I need a competent battery tester as opposed to hauling batteries to the local battery store for checkups. I want one that places a load on the battery to as well as able to check the charging system. A little online search plus checking Amazon reveals that Ancel and Foxwell products get lots of good reviews. Any thoughts or suggestions you may have will be greatly appreciated.

A: I like hand-held battery and charging system testers, but I cannot vouch for which brand having used only a professional Ancel unit. The best thing about these little tools, is that the battery need not be removed for testing. Another option is to visit an auto parts store. Most offer free testing right in the parking lot.

Life & Style

Late-night hosts react with shock, anger to Capitol attack

NEW YORK (AP)—Late-night TV show hosts expressed anger and frustration at the violence at the U.S. Capitol, offering somber monologues that pleaded for unity even as some aimed pointed barbs at those they held responsible for the mobs' actions.

"It was a terrible day in the history of this country," said Jimmy Kimmel on his ABC show Wednesday. Over on CBS, Stephen Colbert called it "a horrifying day that will go down in U.S. history, however much longer that is."

They were reacting to footage several hours earlier of a violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump storming the



This combination photo shows late night talk show hosts, from left, Stephen Colbert of "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert," Jimmy Fallon from "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon," Seth Meyers from "Late Night with Seth Meyers," and Jimmy Kimmel from "Jimmy Kimmel Live," addressing the violence at the U.S. Capitol during their monologues on Wednesday. **AP**

Senate and forcing lawmakers into hiding. Tear gas was used in the Rotunda.

"If my grandfather were alive today and saw what was happening in the country that

he fought for, he'd be disgusted," said Jimmy Fallon on NBC. "People walking around with the flag upside down thinking they're patriotic. Today was not patriotism. Today was terrorism."

James Corden, who grew up in England, used the perspective of an outsider to

view the events, saying he always looked to the United States as a beacon of light and possibility.

"Today, people across the world would have looked at these pictures from Washington and they would have wondered what on earth has happened to this great country,"

Corden said on CBS. But he added "the America that they admire still exists."

Kimmel ridiculed some members of the mob, including one dressed as a Viking. "It was like a psychotic 'Price is Right' audience forcibly taking control of the Plinko wheel," Kimmel said. He condemned those who "lit these fires."

Colbert's 14-minute monologue was the most scathing, calling out Trump's most outspoken GOP supporters in Congress and the Senate for what he alleged were years of sowing the seeds for violence.

"After five years of coddling this president's fascist rhetoric, guess whose followers want to burn down the Reichstag?" he said. "Who could have seen this coming? Everyone. This is the most shocking, most tragic, least surprising thing I've ever seen."

Arnold Schwarzenegger compares US Capitol mob to Nazis

(AP)—Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger compared the mob that stormed the U.S. Capitol to the Nazis and called President Donald Trump a failed leader who "will go down in history as the worst president ever."

The Republican said in a video he released on social media on Sunday that "Wednesday was the Night of Broken Glass right here in the United States." In 1938, Nazis in Germany and Austria vandalized Jewish homes, schools and businesses during an attack that became known as Kristallnacht or "the Night of Broken Glass."



Schwarzenegger

"The broken glass was in the windows of the United States Capitol. But the mob did not just shatter the windows of the Capitol, they shattered the ideas we took for granted," he said. "They trampled the very principles on which our country was founded."

Schwarzenegger, who was born in Austria, compared the Proud Boys—a far-right American extremist group—to the Nazis. Some Proud Boys leaders were arrested in the nation's capital, before and after Wednesday's riots.

"President Trump sought to overturn the results of the election—and of a fair elec-

tion," Schwarzenegger said in the video. "He sought a coup by misleading people with lies."

Schwarzenegger called Trump a failed leader and said he took solace that Trump's presidency was coming to an end and "would soon be as irrelevant as an old tweet."

He called for national unity and vowed his support for President-elect Joe Biden after mobs loyal to Trump broke into the U.S. Capitol, causing a temporary suspension of the electoral count. Members of Congress later returned and certified the results.

Five people died, including a Capitol police officer. Scores of rioters have been arrested and many more are being sought after the brazen attack.

Harris team says it was blindsided by VP-elect's Vogue cover

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Vice President-elect Kamala Harris has landed on the cover of the February issue of Vogue magazine, but her team says there's a problem: the shot of the country's soon-to-be No. 2 leader isn't what both sides had agreed upon, her team says.

Instead of the powder blue power suit Harris wore for her cover shoot, the first African American woman elected vice president is instead seen in more casual attire and wearing Converse Chuck Taylor sneakers, which she sometimes wore on the campaign trail.

Harris' team was unaware

that the cover photo had been switched until images leaked late Saturday, according to a person involved in the negotiations over how Harris would be featured on the cover. Harris' office declined comment and the person spoke Sunday on condition of anonymity.

Representatives for Vogue did not respond Sunday to emailed requests for comment.

Harris, who is of Jamaican and Indian descent, posed in the light blue suit in front of a gold backdrop for the magazine's cover. She also posed, more casually dressed

in slacks, a blazer and sneakers in front of a pink and green background, for photos that were planned for inside the magazine, the person said. Pink and green are the colors of Harris' college sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha.

Vogue has released both images online, but the photo of a sneaker-clad Harris is the one that will grace the cover of the fashion bible's print edition.

The person with knowledge of the negotiations said Harris' team has expressed to Vogue its disappointment over the magazine's decision.

Mom threatens divorce after teens find their dad's stash

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are going on 19 years of marriage and have three teenage girls. We have had multiple rounds of marriage counseling, mostly with good results, although the benefits seem to be short-lived. Most of our problems have stemmed from my husband's drinking or smoking pot. He's not abusive, he's a good provider, but he just likes to get high. Thank God it's not often, but I'm not nor have I ever been OK with it.

Our girls recently found his pot stash and helped themselves. When I questioned them about where they got it, they admitted they found their dad's stash. For me, this is the last straw. How can I teach my kids this is not OK when their dad's actions say otherwise? I'm now made out to be the prude since apparently I'm "no fun."

I'm a nurse, and even if it were legal in our state, I wouldn't use it. I told my husband that I'm done and I'm ready for a divorce. He says I'm being ridiculous. Do I need to lighten up? I think I already know your answer, but I just need to see it to validate my feelings.

ANTI-DRUG WIFE AND MOM

DEAR ANTI-DRUG: Although marijuana may be legal in an increasing number of states, "supplying" drugs to minors is against the law in all of them. What happened cannot and should not be ignored, but ending a good marriage

because your husband likes to use pot **OCCASIONALLY** seems extreme.

It may take more visits to a marriage and family therapist for you to agree to disagree on this, but it is very important that your daughters be disabused of the idea that what they did was OK with either of you. It's time you and your husband form a united front, and he needs to find a better place to keep his stash.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Because of the recent COVID-19 crisis, my wife and I, like so many others, have been stuck at home. I have asked her questions about former boyfriends and lovers. She told me some things, but when I bring it up now, she gets defensive and accuses me of belittling her and bringing back memories she has asked God to help her forget. I feel I am owed an explanation since they all took place while we were dating (including with my best friend) and with a house sitter after we were married. Am I wrong to bring it up after many years and a great marriage?

P.S. It's eating at me, and her stonewalling by saying "I can't remember" is frustrating, especially because all her friends talk about her great memory.

DEPRESSED IN TEXAS

DEAR DEPRESSED: Yes, you are wrong because this

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



isn't getting you anywhere positive. In fact, it's the opposite. If you are looking for a divorce after "many years and a great marriage," keep digging.

While your wife's poor judgment and infidelity are deeply regrettable, the two of you managed to build a life together and move beyond it. Sometimes people forget what they need to forget in order to function. Accept it and use your quarantine time to do something more positive than playing "20 Questions."

■■■

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby -- Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



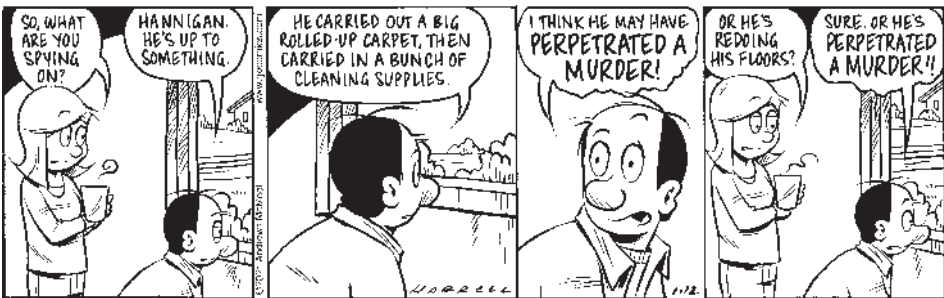
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ski lift type
5 Beer container
8 Unconvincing
12 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
13 Acapulco gold
14 Holiday lead-ins
15 Finished
17 Tennis barriers
18 "It's c-c-cold!"
19 "You have my support!"
21 "Yippee!"
24 RBI, for one
25 Castle
26 Keep for oneself
30 Greek X
31 Sends a copy
32 Narc's org.
33 Postpone
35 Flower pot filler
36 Competes
37 Scented soap brand

DOWN

38 Still on the market
41 Scamper
42 — -do- well
43 Exaggerated
48 Ellington's "Take — Train"
49 Victory
50 Fired
51 Sty cry
52 Scott's refusal
53 Weather map markings
1 Wee bit
2 Buddy
3 Raggedy doll
4 Athletic shoe giant
5 Coconut fiber
6 Curator's concern
7 Pitcher's dream
8 Duration
9 Declare
10 Apportion
11 Being, to Brutus
16 Like some humor
20 Contented sounds
21 N.Y. Philharmonic, for one
22 Jolly laugh
23 Seethe
24 Casino boxcars
26 Hail, as a taxi
27 Tony-winning actor Leslie — Jr.
28 "Star Wars" royal
29 Actress Tyne
31 Thwart
34 "New World Symphony" composer
35 Beach shoe
37 Mangy mutt
38 Golden Rule preposition
39 Classic soda brand
40 Beheld
41 Thinker Descartes
44 By means of
45 Kitchen gadget brand
46 Up-to-date
47 Asner and Harris

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-12

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51				52			53			

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Zayn Malik, 28; Issa Rae, 36; Oliver Platt, 61; Kirstie Alley, 70.

Happy Birthday: Consider what makes you happy; adjust your life accordingly. The changes you make will impact your ability to see things clearly and bring about changes that will eliminate the negativity in your life. Choose your words wisely, and make sure you practice what you preach. Personal growth and an updated look are favored. Your numbers are 6, 17, 22, 29, 34, 42, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll have to rely on your connections to help you get ahead. A competitive individual will try to make you look bad. Preparation, intelligence, a strategy that is disciplined and an opportunity will help you come out on top. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep an open mind, size up situations and make decisions based on facts. Personal improvements, growth and unique friendships will develop if you use social media to your advantage. Hesitating will be your downfall. Be resourceful and direct. Romance is favored. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Gather information, and deal with matters concerning government agencies and medical, legal and financial institutions yourself. Trusting someone to take care of your business will set you back. Question everything and everyone before you agree to make a change. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A change someone suggests will be useful for you emotionally, but not favorable regard-

ing money, legal or health matters. Think twice before you let someone push you in an unstable direction. Concentrate on creativity, romance and personal happiness. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll have plenty of ideas, but consider your motives before you leap into action. A change will lead to uncertainty if you haven't thought matters through sufficiently. Be smart, take your time and focus on facts, truth and fair play. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Jump at the chance to learn something new or to use your skills differently. The more you know and have to offer, the greater the reward. Look at the trends, and be as versatile as possible. Romance will boost your morale. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't let your desire for change lead you down a rabbit hole. Consider the pros and cons and the motives behind the decisions you make. Don't trade one negative situation for another. Baby steps will help you incorporate a promising strategy. **

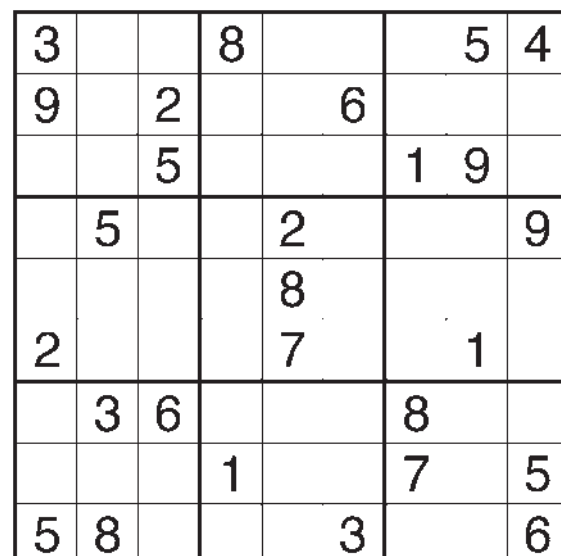
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your intuition be your guide. Plan your actions based on the experience you have gained over the years. Stay focused on knowledge and facts. Use your imagination to outmaneuver anyone who tries to get in your way. Romance is favored. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Let go of negative baggage. Prepare to move forward with optimism, intelligence and a disciplined attitude. Giving anyone the chance to speak on your behalf or to take care of your responsibilities will result in disappointment. ***

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

1/12

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): It's OK to do things differently. Don't feel bound to tradition or to what someone wants you to do. Take control and follow the path that intrigues you the most. A change will lift your spirits and encourage you to be more active. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You meet with opposition if you show signs of insecurity or confusion. Stand tall and be clear about what you want. Take control, and you will offset someone who wants to take over. Look for an opportunity, and follow through with a plan. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll get the opportunity to explore something you want to pursue. Channel your energy where it will be the most impactful and draw the most attention. How you represent yourself and what you stand for will make a difference. *****

Birthday Baby: You are questioning, curious and demanding. You are passionate and helpful.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

OUTDOOR SPRINKLERS

Solution: 10 letters



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1/12

Adjust, Angle, Circle, Degree, Drip, Environment, Farm, Faucet, Flat, Flow, Garden, Gauge, Grass, Ground, Hose, Lawn, Lush, Metal, Mist, Nozzle, Open, Orbit, Pattern, Pipe, Plant, Play, Pool, Pulse, Pump, Rain, Roof, Rotary, Rotor, Seeds, Shape, Shrub, Size, Slope, Speed, Spin, Splash, Spray, Spring, Summer, Timer, Turf, Turret, Valve, Vegetables, Wash, Wind, Yard, Zone

Yesterday's Answer: Telegraph

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 61 order on me at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Browns stun Steelers; Brees to meet Brady



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—The NFC divisional round will give fans a third-time treat: another meeting between old-timers Tom Brady and Drew Brees.

Possibly the final one.

The AFC matchups, meanwhile, will include the Cleveland Browns for the first time since they re-entered the NFL in 1999, and Lamar Jackson and the Ravens.

Brees assured that the NFC South rival Saints and Buccaneers will meet once more, throwing for two touchdowns in a 21-9 victory over Chicago. The New Orleans quarterback, who turns 42 on Friday—one year younger than Tampa Bay's star—is toying with retirement, but with the way the Saints defense is playing, a second trip to the Super Bowl is not a long shot.

Tampa Bay (12-5) defeated Washington 31-23 on Saturday. The Bucs will travel to New Orleans (13-4) next Sunday night.

"The minute that he signed with the Bucs and came to the division, you felt like that was going to be a team to contend with, that was going to be a team that would have playoff aspirations and beyond, just like us," Brees said of meeting Brady in the playoffs for the first time. "So, I guess it was inevitable."

The other NFC game next



weekend will be on Saturday as Green Bay (13-3 and coming off a bye) hosts the Los Angeles Rams (11-6), who downed Seattle this weekend.

In the AFC, Cleveland's return to the postseason for the first time in 18 years went very well. The Browns not only snapped a 17-game skid at Heinz Field, they manhandled the mistake-prone archrival Steelers 48-37 Sunday night. On to face reigning Super Bowl champion Kansas City (14-2 and coming off a bye) next Sunday.

After two postseason flops,

Jackson was his usual dynamic and decisive self in leading the Ravens to a 20-13 wild-card victory at Tennessee. That sends them to Buffalo on Saturday night.

Browns 48, Steelers 37

So much for the weight of history. Or practicing. Or having your head coach on the sideline. Or your emotional leader on the field.

The Cleveland Browns overcame all of it. The burden of carrying the mantle of a franchise that's long been a punchline. A schedule ravaged by a COVID-19 outbreak. A rival that for years has treated them like a harmless little brother.

All of that's over. For now. And maybe for good.

The Browns dismantled the Pittsburgh Steelers in the wild-card round Sunday night, picking up the franchise's first postseason victory in more than a quarter-century and earning a trip to Kansas City next Sunday to face the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs.

"We believe in the people in the room no matter what's going on," quarterback Baker Mayfield said. "We knew that

everybody was counting us out. There was no extra pressure or anything. No one believed in us besides us."

Playing with first-year head coach Kevin Stefanski, Pro Bowl guard Joel Bitonio and top cornerback Denzel Ward back in Cleveland after all tested positive for COVID-19, Cleveland (12-5) raced to the biggest first half by a road team in NFL playoff history then held on.

Mayfield threw for 263 yards and three touchdowns, including a screen pass that Nick Chubb turned into a 40-yard score that halted Pittsburgh's momentum after the Steelers had pulled within 12. Kareem Hunt added 48 yards and two touchdowns on the ground while Cleveland's defense forced five turnovers to hand the Steelers (12-5) a staggering loss.

The victory was the Browns' first postseason triumph of any kind since beating New England on New Year's Day 1995—three months before Mayfield was born—and their first playoff win on the road since Dec. 28, 1969. The significance wasn't lost on special teams coordinator Mike

Priefer, a Cleveland native who found himself filling in when Stefanski tested positive for COVID-19.

"I grew up (a Browns fan), so I know what this means," Priefer said.

Cleveland did it despite practicing just once over the last two weeks and having lost 17 straight at Heinz Field.

Ben Roethlisberger ended his comeback season by throwing for 501 yards on an NFL-record 47 completions with four touchdowns and four interceptions.

Saints 21, Bears 9

Michael Thomas and Latavius Murray caught Brees' touchdown passes, and Alvin Kamara rushed for 99 yards and a 3-yard scoring run after sitting out the regular-season finale and not practicing this past week because of COVID-19 protocols.

New Orleans (13-4) held Chicago (8-9) to 239 yards, just 48 rushing.

"Our defense played outstanding," coach Sean Payton said. "We tackled well in space. ... Ultimately we forced them to become one-dimensional, and when you do that you're

going to win a lot of games." The Saints won both meetings with the Bucs during the regular season.

Ravens 20, Titans 13

Some first steps are far longer than others. Such as what Jackson achieved Sunday.

He isn't in any way the only reason Baltimore is advancing—the defense shut down 2,000-yard rusher Derrick Henry like no other team has come close to doing. But he was a positive contributor, unlike in losses to the Chargers and Titans in his other playoff appearances.

Jackson ran for 136 yards and a 48-yard touchdown while throwing for 179 more, rallying the Ravens from a 10-0 hole. The Ravens (12-5) went 21 straight losses in either the regular season or playoffs when trailing by 10 or more points.

Despite being sacked five times and throwing an interception, Jackson turned in the sixth 100-yard rushing game by a quarterback in the postseason, and joined Colin Kaepernick with two.

"We stayed focused. We didn't get rattled. Our coaches didn't get rattled. We had to put points on the board," Jackson said. "I throw an interception, a dumb interception. We just kept fighting."

Especially the defense: Henry had his worst performance this season with 18 carries for 40 yards and the Titans (11-6) were held to their fewest points of the season.

"Our defense was tired of hearing the noise," Jackson said. "And they did what they were supposed to do."

MLS won't ask players to take another paycut

Major League Soccer won't ask its players to take another paycut to offset the deep losses in gate revenue caused by the coronavirus pandemic, but will seek a two-year extension to the collective bargaining agreement that was signed last summer, according to multiple sources with knowledge of the league's proposal to the MLS Players' Association.

MLS formally made the proposal to the union late Monday afternoon. The two sides had initially agreed to a new CBA last January, but the pandemic turned the world on its ear before the players had a chance to ratify it, leaving open a window for the league to renegotiate certain parts of the deal.

The players ultimately agreed to a 5 percent salary reduction and 12-month extension of the CBA, which was originally set to expire following the 2024 season. A force majeure clause was

also added to the fine print, giving the league the ability to seek additional concessions if the 2021 season was similarly impacted.

MLS notified the players' association last week that it was triggering the force majeure clause. It didn't make any specific asks at the time, but the assumption among players was that MLS would also seek a salary reduction from them for this

season, which is set to begin in March.

Instead, MLS wants to extend the CBA again, this time through

2027. MLS commissioner Don Garber claims the league lost more than \$1 billion last season, which was interrupted by an unplanned four-month break between March and July, included a successful "bubble" tournament in Central Florida over the summer, and was completed last month in mostly empty stadiums because of the health crisis. (NBC)



Kawhi hits 10K points, Clippers beat Bulls



LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored a season-high 35 points, going over 10,000 in his career, and the Los Angeles Clippers rallied to beat the Chicago Bulls 130-127 on Sunday.

Leonard reached the milestone on one of his five 3-pointers in the third quarter, when he scored 21 points. His points and 3-pointers made were the most in a single quarter in his career. Leonard's last 3-pointer in the quarter gave the Clippers their first lead since they scored the game's first basket. In all, he had seven 3-pointers, tying his career high.

Paul George had 28 points, seven rebounds and nine assists for the Clippers, who avoided their first three-game losing streak of the season. Lou Williams added 21 points off the bench.

Zach LaVine led six Bulls in double figures with a season-high 45 points—four off his career high—and he made a season-best 10 3-pointers.

Lakers 120, Rockets 102

Anthony Davis had 27 points, LeBron James added 18 and Los Angeles won for the sixth time in seven games with a victory over Houston.

It was a testy game that included five technical fouls, two flagrant fouls and the first-half ejections of Markieff Morris and DeMarcus Cousins.

Davis, who sat out on Friday with a groin strain, helped the Lakers finish with 62 points in the paint in a game in which they led by as many as 27.

Christian Wood scored 23 points and James Harden had 20 in the first of two straight games against the Lakers with the second one coming Tuesday night in Houston.

Thunder 129, Nets 116

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points to lead Oklahoma City over Brooklyn.

Gilgeous-Alexander was one of six players to finish in double-figure scoring for the Thunder, who won their third straight and beat Brooklyn for the fifth consecutive time.

Hamidou Diallo finished with 25 points, Al Horford had 22, George Hill added 14, and Lugentz Dort and Isaiah Roby had 13 each.

Kevin Durant scored 36 points for Brooklyn after sitting three games after being exposed to COVID-19. Caris LeVert added 21 points, Jarrett Allen had 15 points and 10 rebounds, and Timothe Luwawu-Cabarrot scored 12 as the Nets dropped their sec-



Los Angeles Clippers forward Kawhi Leonard, top, dunks over Chicago Bulls guard Denzel Valentine (45) during the second half of an NBA game Sunday, Jan. 10, 2021, in Los Angeles.

ond straight.

Warriors 106, Raptors 105

Damion Lee converted the tying and go-ahead free throws with 3.3 seconds left and Golden State withstood a rough fourth quarter to hold off Toronto despite uncharacteristic struggles by Stephen Curry.

Pascal Siakam missed a jumper as the buzzer sounded but finished with 25 points, and Fred VanVleet scored 21 for Toronto in a rematch of the 2019 NBA Finals won in six games by the Raptors.

Andrew Wiggins had 17 points and matched his career high with four blocked shots as Golden State nearly squandered away a game it led by 17.

Curry shot 2 of 16 and missed nine of his 10 3s for 11 points after scoring 143 over his previous four games, including a career-high 62 one week earlier against Portland.

Nuggets 114, Knicks 89

Nikola Jokic had 22 points,

10 rebounds and five assists in another short night, and Denver reached .500 for the first time this season with a victory over New York.

The Nuggets opened 1-4 after reaching the Western Conference finals last season but have now answered with four wins in five games.

Gary Harris added 14 points for the Nuggets, who got only nine from star guard Jamal Murray.

Julius Randle had 29 points, 10 rebounds and five assists for the Knicks, which the team said made him the only player other than Hall of Famer Oscar Robertson to have at least 200 points, 115 rebounds and 70 assists in his team's first 10 games of a season.

Jazz 96, Pistons 86

Donovan Mitchell scored 13 of his 28 points in a decisive first quarter, and Utah held on for a victory over Detroit.

The Pistons were coming off an overtime win over Phoenix on Friday night in which they rallied from a 23-point deficit,

but they couldn't climb out of another big hole. Utah scored the game's first nine points and never trailed. The Jazz went on a 17-0 run later in the first, pushing their lead to 20 before the quarter was over.

Jerami Grant scored 28 points for the Pistons, who cut the deficit to six late in the third quarter. They had the ball down five late in the fourth, but Rudy Gobert blocked a shot by Mason Plumlee, and Mike Conley made two free throws to make it 93-86 with 1:00 remaining.

Conley finished with 22 points.

Timberwolves 96, Spurs 88

D'Angelo Russell had 27 points, five rebounds and five assists as Minnesota snapped a seven-game losing streak with a win over the San Antonio Spurs.

Russell scored eight of his points in the fourth quarter, including a 3-pointer to tie the score with 7:02 left and two free throws to ice it with

31.5 seconds remaining. Russell and Malik Beasley, who added 24 points, helped the Wolves get their first win since Dec. 26.

Minnesota was playing without star big man Karl-Anthony Towns, who re-

turned to action Saturday after missing six games with a partial dislocation of his left wrist. Sunday's absence was part of the plan to ease Towns back in and not a result of any reaggravation of his injury.

Heat-Celtics game postponed due to virus protocols

BOSTON (AP)—The NBA is continuing its season as planned even after concerns about COVID-19 exposure forced the postponement of Miami's game at Boston on Sunday, a day where no fewer than 15 players around the league were officially declared unable to play for virus-related reasons.

The Celtics had seven of those players and Miami had another. But after Heat guard Avery Bradley was ruled out for Sunday—his test result was not announced, just his status—the rest of the Miami players needed their contact-tracing data analyzed to determine if they had been potentially exposed.

That process would not have been completed in time for the 7pm game, so the league called it off. Boston was preparing to play the game with eight available players; the Celtics have 17 on their roster, seven were out due to the COVID-19 protocols and two more with injuries.

Meanwhile, the Heat simply were not cleared to play anyone.

"We anticipated that there would be game postponements this season and planned the schedule accordingly," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said in a statement distributed to The Associated Press and other outlets. "There are no plans to pause the season, and we will continue to be guided by our medical experts and health and safety protocols."

The NBA had 148 games on the schedule so far through Sunday; the Boston-Miami game was only the second to be postponed for virus-related reasons. The other was Dec. 23, an Oklahoma City at Houston game where the Rockets did not have the required eight players available.

But many teams are feeling the effects of missing players because of testing or other possible exposure. Brooklyn's Kevin Durant had the virus last spring, but he had to miss three games last week after being exposed to someone who had tested positive for COVID-19. He returned to the Nets on Sunday night.

"You are starting to see what is going on in our country directly affect the NBA because we are no longer in that safety net of the bubble," said Denver coach Michael Malone, whose club has been without Michael Porter Jr. for its last six games—and counting—because of the league's protocols.

The Heat were staying in Boston overnight Sunday and are scheduled to play in Philadelphia, another team with virus issues, on Tuesday and Thursday. The 76ers had eight eligible players and used only seven Saturday in a loss to Denver, doing so in part because some were ruled out in accordance with the virus protocols.

The Celtics were to have been without Jaylen Brown, Javonte Green, Semi Ojelaye, Jayson Tatum, Tristan Thompson, Grant Williams and Robert Williams on Sunday. That's the most any team has ruled out for a game because of virus-related issues so far this season but does not necessarily mean any of the affected Celtics tested positive.

They were in Miami for a game on Wednesday, and Bradley played in that game for the Heat.

Additionally, a fourth Dallas player was added to the COVID-19 protocol list Sunday, but Maxi Kleber is listed as questionable instead of out for Monday's home game against New Orleans. Starters Josh Richardson and Dorian Finney-Smith and backup Jalen Brunson are still listed as out. Those three stayed behind in Denver after a win over the Nuggets on Thursday and missed Saturday's victory at home against Orlando.

The NBA and National Basketball Players Association put together a plan last year to finish the season in a bubble environment at Walt Disney World in Central Florida, where nobody tested positive and no games were missed because of the virus. But NBA Commissioner Adam Silver told teams last month that issues would be "inevitable" with games going on outside a bubble, and he's been proven correct.

LeMahieu will re-engage interested teams



NEW YORK— One of the major

themes of MLB free agency this winter has been the snail-like pace in which the market has moved for players seeking contracts. With just over a month before players report to spring training, many of the top free agents have yet to be signed.

Included in that group is DJ LeMahieu, who's reportedly grown tired of the Yankees' slow-play tactics and plans to re-engage interested teams.

According to reports, LeMahieu is seeking a contract similar to Josh Donaldson's four-year, \$92 million contract with the Twins from a year ago or JD Martinez's five-year, \$110 million contract he signed with the Red Sox before the 2018 season.

Since the Yankees have yet to meet that price and are taking their time with the two-time batting champion, LeMahieu has asked his representatives to engage with other teams, including the Dodgers, Blue Jays, Mets, Braves, Cardinals and Red Sox, among others.

Not explicitly listed in Brown's story are the Nationals, who have a need at second and third base and were linked to LeMahieu earlier in the off-season. However, Washington



AP
In this Sept. 23, 2020 file photo, New York Yankees second baseman DJ LeMahieu throws to first base after picking up a shot from Toronto Blue Jays' Teoscar Hernandez during the first inning of a baseball game in Buffalo, N.Y.

was reportedly expected to "spread their money around" rather than go all-in on one free agent.

On Saturday, the Nationals filled their hole in left field by signing Kyle Schwarber to a one-year, \$10 million contract. It's unclear how interested in LeMahieu they are at this point in free agency, but the Mets, Braves and Dodgers' involvement could interest

them in taking a swing on the 32-year-old.

Last season with the Yankees, LeMahieu posted a .364/.421/.590 slash line with 10 home runs and 27 RBI, helping him finish third in A.L. MVP voting. He's finished top-five in MVP voting in the last two seasons.

Meanwhile, the Giants are going to have to get used to seeing Fernando Tatis Jr.

The San Diego Padres have been in talks on a possible extension with the superstar shortstop, according to sources. The contract could be completed before shortstop Francisco Lindor is extended by the New York Mets.

The source said the timeframe of this extension isn't certain, but there is "ink on the paper," and there could be more progress in the next week or so.

It was reported that the Padres are "negotiating a con-

tract with Tatis Jr. for \$320 million and 11 seasons."

Tatis Jr. is still under team control for five years and won't be a free agent until 2025.

It appears the Padres ideally would like to have 22-year-old Tatis locked in before Lindor would hit the open market. Lindor could be part of a star-studded shortstop free agency class in 2022 that includes Corey Seager, Trevor Story and Carlos Correa.

Mets president Sandy Alderson said he will address a contract extension with Lindor and it will be "evolutionary."

The consensus for the timing appears to be to make sure Tatis is locked in before Lindor resets the market at the position. Lindor is in his final year of arbitration.

A Tatis extension would just the Padres as the Los Angeles Dodgers' biggest long-term threat in the NL West. In two MLB seasons, Tatis has slashed a .301/.374/.582 line and hit 39 home runs.

The Padres have put their money where their mouth is this offseason, extending starter Mike Clevinger for two years and adding both Yu Darvish and Blake Snell to their rotation for the 2021 season.

MRA

From Page 20

Cepeda, on the other hand, prevailed in the Veteran Class over Charles Cepeda, Henry Camacho Sr., and Ray Yumul.

In the Expert Class, Christian Camacho outclassed Cuki Alvarez, Angelito Hernaez, Franklin Santos, Champi Villacanes, and Melvin and Charles Cepeda.

With the practice heats done and the 2021 Points Race Season just around the corner, MRA is encouraging riders to prepare themselves and their bikes for the official competition. Race schedule for the season-opening event on Jan. 24 will be announced days before MRA kicks off the series.

The Top 3 plates in various divisions will be at stake in the 2021 Points Race Season, which will be a seven-series competition. Points will be awarded to riders based on their finish in each series and at the end of the season, the rider with the most points will get the No. 1 plate. MRA will also award No. 2 and 3 plates at the end of the season. Round 2 to 6 of the series will take place on Feb. 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, and June 27, while the season-ending event is scheduled for July 25.



JOSEPH CHIN

A rider is airborne after passing through an obstacle during last Sunday's Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series 7.



JOSEPH CHIN

A race volunteer gestures to two young ATV riders.

KINGS

From Page 20

own attempt from downtown and the former countered with a step-back trey from the top key. Santos bagged the win with still more than two minutes left in the 10-minute game clock.

Next up for the group was the match between two bangers—Arnold Arellano and McWilliams. With the two burly forwards missing a lot of outside shots, the game was decided in the paint, as the opposing players muscled their way to the basket.

There were a lot of lead changes and deadlocks in the second match in the bracket with the game tied last at 8-all. McWilliams then regained the lead when he drove strong to the basket and then pulled up for a jumper in the shaded lane, with less than two minutes left in the game. McWilliams made it a 10-8 advantage when he hit a shot near the foul line and gained more cushion when he stole possession from Arellano in the last 30 seconds of the game and nailed an uncontested layup. Arellano tried to mount a last-minute comeback by attempting shots from the parking lot, but to no avail, as McWilliams kept the upper hand when time expired.

In the last tiff in Bracket B, Erdene downed early favorite Kelvin Fitial, using his quickness to score on several layups



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Richard McWilliams, right, defends against Arnold Arellano during their match in the Marianas International Basketball League's Kings of The Game last month at the Agape Gymnasium.

and a couple of 3-pointers (2-point basket).

With Erdene eliminating Fitial, the former set up a showdown against McWilliams for one of the two semis berths in Bracket B. Santos and Castro disputed the other semis ticket in the group. Castro bagged a free pass to the quarterfinals after Freddie Pelisamen got injured and forfeited the opening match in the tournament that was played last Dec. 12.

Santos, Castro, Erdene, and McWilliams joined Preston

Basa, Mak Mintac, Dean Blake, and Douglas Schmidt in the quarterfinals. Mintac and Basa were paired in the quarterfinals match in Bracket A, while the other duel in the group featured Blake and Schmidt. Matches in Bracket A were shown in Episode 1 of the series last Dec. 19. Results in the Round of 8 matches will be aired on Episode 3 later this month.

The Kings of The Game was made into a YouTube series to promote the local basketball scene and The Marianas.



**Browns stun
Steelers;
Brees to
meet Brady**

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune Sports

**Kawhi hits
10K points,
Clippers
beat Bulls**

PAGE 18



20 TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Camacho keeps streak in MRA

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MJ Camacho wrapped up the Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series with his win streak intact after ruling anew the Minis 1 and 2 race last Sunday at the Marianas Motocross Park in Marpi.

Kings of The Game: Quarterfinals cast complete

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Four more players advanced to the quarterfinal round of the Marianas International Basketball League's Kings of The Game played last month at the Agape Gymnasium.

Jeff Castro, Coby Santos, Richard McWilliams, and Stephen Erdene won their respective matches in Bracket B of the competition with three of the four games in the group shown in Episode 2 of the basketball series on the YouTube Channel of MIBL

and aired on Jan. 6.

Coby Santos was the first player to notch a quarterfinal slot in Bracket B after easing past Jaymark De Guzman, 12-4. The former Marianas High School standout built a 5-1 lead in the race-to-12 game and was never threatened after that to eliminate De Guzman. Santos knocked in back-to-back triples for a 9-4 advantage and then made a layup to move closer to victory, which came quickly when De Guzman failed on his

See KINGS on Page 19



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coby Santos, left, drives against Jaymark De Guzman during their match in the Marianas International Basketball League's Kings of The Game last month at the Agape Gymnasium.



JOSEPH CHIN

MJ Camacho, right, and Mari Alvarez are in a tight race during the Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series 5 held last month at the Marianas Motocross Park.

The 13-year-old Camacho won the seventh and last practice heat that MRA hosted before proceeding with the 2021 Points Race Season, prevailing against Mari Alvarez, Devin and Ethan Yumul, Maribel Igitol, and Billie Pangelinan. The victory was Camacho's fifth out of the seven pre-season races and he ended the series with four straight wins.

The Dandan Middle School student started the series with a third place finish in the division behind E.J. Taimanao and Alvarez and then got his first victory in Series 2. Camacho missed the third leg of the practice heat, but returned on the raceway with his second win and went on to sweep the last three to become the early favorite in the 2021 Points Race Season that will start on Jan. 24.

Meanwhile, Zane Fujihira earned his second victory in the series after topping last weekend's Peewee Class 1 race. Fujihira, who gained first place in the Series 2 last month, finished strong by downing Series 6 winner Ezekiel Camacho, Harley Susulin,

Joseph Santos, Kassidy Vilagomez, Ramon Camacho, and Tate Manglona in the finale.

In the Peewee Class 2, Rylie Manglona triumphed over Keenon Togawa, Trey Manglona, and T.J. Ferrer to make it to the winners list in the practice heat series.

In the Mini ATV, Theresa

Borja moved back on top after settling for a runner-up finish in the penultimate heat, as she defeated Series 6 winner Naveah Camacho, Jesse Santos, and Melvin Reyes in last weekend's competition.

Meanwhile, MRA held similar final practice heat in three other divisions with Corry

Pangelinann, Melvin Cepeda, and Christian Camacho earning the top podium finish.

Pangelinan capped his dominance in the Novice Class after beating Kier Agda, Ray Yumul, Arthur Jebehn, Thomas Reyes, and Byron Castro in last Sunday's race. Melvin

See MRA on Page 19



JOSEPH CHIN

Two riders leap over an obstacle during last Sunday's Marianas Racing Association Practice Heat Series 7.